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[JAMES HOLMES, TOOK'S COURT.]

## REVIEWS

*The Life of Sir Edward Coke, Lord Chief Justice of England in the reign of James I.; with Memoirs of his Contemporaries.* By Cuthbert William Johnson. 2 vols. Colburn.

The name of Sir Edward Coke occupies a high place in both the legal and political annals of a very important period of our history; and it is indeed singular, that while so many persons, immeasurably his inferiors, have received "due," and perhaps more than due, honour, the first lawyer of his day, the favourite of the Cecils, the great opponent of Bacon, the judge who dared, in an age of such abject submission to prerogative, to withstand both the king and his minister, the patriot who, on the verge of fourscore, lifted up his voice in parliament to vindicate her privileges, "for they are the heartstrings of the commonwealth"—that, for the life of such a man, we should have to seek among the scanty notices of some biographical collection, is indeed strange.

In undertaking the work before us, Mr. Johnson seems to have been influenced by that respect which the student of the law must ever feel for the memory of "the great Lord Coke"; in the prosecution of his task, he has proceeded with reasonable diligence, and the result is a work, not merely valuable to the members of his own profession, but interesting and amusing to the general reader.

Sir Edward Coke commenced his public career late in life. It was not until his forty-second year that he first entered parliament, nor until he had passed the age of fifty that he became Attorney General, while his highest dignity, that of Lord Chief Justice, was not attained until his sixtieth year. The first forty years of Coke's life placed him before us merely as a laborious law student, a rising and prosperous barrister, and an exemplary, though probably severe, parent and master. With the death of his first wife his rise at court, and his troubles, seem to have commenced, for it is not improbable that the life-long enmity which existed between him and Bacon took its rise in their rivalry for the favour of the lady, whom Coke now married. She was the fourth daughter of the Earl of Exeter, eldest son of the celebrated Burghley; was very young, very beautiful, and both from her conduct and her letters, appears to have been a high-spirited and intelligent woman. Such a wife was manifestly most unsuitable to an elderly lawyer, a man fond of retirement and study, and of "high-handed tyrannical courses;" and although, from the period of his marriage he rose rapidly in his profession, yet he paid dearly for his public honours by the sacrifice of his domestic peace.

When Coke was advanced to the office of Attorney General, Bacon became a candidate for the office of Solicitor General; but Sir Henry Hobart was preferred, and Bacon always believed that Coke, in this instance also, had injured him. It was unfortunate for the fame of Coke, that in the two most important trials conducted by him while Attorney General,—those of the gallant and reckless Essex, and the gallant and most unfortunate Raleigh,—he had to contend against the popular feeling; and while the strange, coarse, vulgar virulence of his attacks upon Raleigh find a place in every history, the

noble opposition made by him when judge, to the encroachments of prerogative, have been altogether forgotten. In 1605 Coke appeared against the conspirators in the Gunpowder Plot, and his speech, on that occasion, Mr. Johnson considers a very able one. It is probable that his active services on this occasion recommended him to the favour of James, since, in the following year, he was elevated to the chief-justiceship of the Common Pleas. Coke appears to have entered on his important office with a full and stern determination to fulfil his duties in a spirit of fearless independence:—

"He was first consulted on the 20th of September, 1610, by the law officers of the crown, upon the power of the King to issue proclamations which should have the same force of law, as an act of Parliament. The result cannot be better given than in his own words.

"I was sent for to attend the Lord Chancellor (Lord Ellesmere), Lord Treasurer, Lord Privy Seal, and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Attorney and Solicitor General, and the Recorder.

"Two questions were then put to me by the Lord Treasurer. The one, 'If the King, by his proclamation, may forbid new buildings, in and about London,' &c. The other, 'If the King may prohibit the making of starch from wheat.' And the Lord Treasurer said, these were referred to the King as grievances by the House of Commons, as against the law and justice. And the King hath answered, that he will confer with his Privy Council and his judges, and then he will do right to them. To which I answered, first, that these questions were of great importance, and secondly, that they concerned the answer of the King to the body, viz. to the commons of the House of Parliament; thirdly, that I did not hear of these questions until this morning, at nine of the clock; for the grievances were preferred and the answers made while I was on my circuit; and, lastly, that both the proclamations which were now shewed were promulgated in the fifth year of the present King, after my time of being attorney-general; and for these reasons I did humbly desire them, that I might have conference with my brethren the judges, about the answer of the King, and then to make an advised answer, according to law and reason.

"To which the Lord Chancellor said, that every precedent must have first a commencement, and that he would advise the judges to maintain the power and prerogative of the King, and in cases in which there is no authority and precedent, to leave it to the King to order it according to his wisdom and the good of his subjects, for otherwise the King would be no more than the Duke of Venice; and that the King was so much restrained in his prerogative, that it is to be feared, that the bonds would be broken; and the Lord Privy Seal said, that the physician was not always bound to a precedent, but to apply his remedy according to the quality of the disease; and all concluded it should be necessary at that time to confirm the King's prerogative with our opinions, although that there were not any former precedent or authority in law, for every precedent ought to have a commencement.

"To which I answered, that true it is that every precedent hath a commencement, but where authority and precedent are wanting, there is need of great consideration before anything of novelty is established, and to provide that this be not against the law of the land; for, I said, the King cannot change any part of the common law, nor create any offence by his proclamation, which was not an offence before, without Parliament."

Thus early did the spirit of the Stuarts exhibit itself, and thus early was it rebuked. Some time after, Coke again opposed the wishes of

the King, by refusing to become a member of the High Commission Court, which he justly regarded with dislike, as a dangerous encroachment on the liberties of the subject. This refusal, however, did not stand in the way of his farther advancement at that time, although it was carefully remembered when the hour of his disgrace arrived. In October, 1613, he was advanced to the dignity of Chief Justice of England, and one of his first acts was, to lift up his voice against the infamous measures of the Court, in their persecution of Peachum, an obscure Somerseshire clergyman, who was imprisoned, tortured, and finally convicted, of high treason, on the evidence of a sermon found among his papers, which was "never preached, and probably never intended to be preached."

In 1615, the trials of the Earl and Countess of Somerset, and their servants, for the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury, took place before Coke; and it is probable that some remarks which he then made, and his anxiety to discover the whole truth, in a case in which James was determined that no more should be known than he chose, added greatly to the dislike with which he seems to have been already viewed by the Court.

At length the time came when the disgrace of Coke was determined on:—

"The question involving the clashing jurisdictions of the courts of law and equity had hardly been settled, when the great case of Commandams occurred, in which Coke displayed all his wonted integrity, and uncompromising opposition to the orders of mere sovereign power.

"This great question arose from an argument raised by Serjeant Chibborn, in the Court of Common Pleas, when speaking in a private cause against the policy of commandams in general.

"In his arguments he maintained that the translation of bishops was against the common law, and that, with regard to commandams, the King had no power to grant them, except in cases of necessity, for the keeping of hospitality, which necessity could never happen, since no man was obliged to keep hospitality beyond his means.

"This erroneous, though bold line of argument, was reported to the King by Dr. Bilson, Bishop of Winchester, as being contrary to the King's prerogative, and, in consequence, the Attorney General, Bacon, informed the judges that it was his Majesty's pleasure they should not proceed to argue this case until they had first consulted his Majesty, and for this purpose he held it necessary that they should put off the day appointed for the argument. ••

"But these reverend judges, upon consultation, unanimously agreed not to be diverted from their regular course by this royal mandate; and, accordingly, they proceeded to argue and determine the cause, justifying what they had done in the following noble letter to the King:

"Most dread and gracious Sovereign,  
"It may please your most excellent Majesty to be advertised that this letter, here inclosed, was delivered unto me, your Chief Justice, on Thursday last in the afternoon, by a servant of your Majesty's Attorney-General; and letters of like effect were on the day following sent from him by his servants to us, your Majesty's justices of every the courts at Westminster. ••

"What information hath been made out unto you, wherein your Attorney doth ground his letter, from the report of the Bishop of Winchester, we know not; this we know, that the true substance of the cause summarily is this, that it consisteth principally upon the construction of two acts of parliament, the one of the twenty-fifth year of King Ed-

ward the Third, and the other of the twenty-fifth year of King Henry the Eighth, whereof your Majesty's Judges, upon their oaths, and according to their best knowledge and learning, are bound to deliver their true understanding faithfully and uprightly; and the case being between two for private interest, and inheritance earnestly called on for justice and expedition.

" We hold it, therefore, our duty to inform your Majesty, that our oath is in these express words: that, in case any letter came unto us, contrary to law, that we do nothing by such letters, but certify your Majesty thereof, and go forth to do the law, notwithstanding the same letters.

" We have advisedly considered of the said letter of Mr. Attorney, and, with one consent, do hold the same to be contrary to law, and such as we could not yield to by our oaths, assuredly persuading ourselves that your Majesty being truly informed that it standeth not with your royal and just pleasure to give way to them."

It is melancholy to find, that after this noble declaration, the judges actually "kneeled down, confessed themselves in error, and solicited pardon." But even this disgraceful servility on the part of Coke was in vain; he had made himself obnoxious to the new favourite, Villiers, and his removal had been decided on; and on the silly plea of contemptuous speeches, and "uncomely and undutiful carriage in the presence of his Majesty," he was suspended from his office, and, finally, in 1616, superseded.

Exiled from court favour, at the age of sixty-six, it would have been well had Coke retired from public life; but "we now arrive," says his biographer, "at that part of his career which is, in every point of view, unsatisfactory."

That Coke felt very sensibly his removal from office, is certain; he had evidently not sufficient consolation in the reflection, that his dismissal was undeserved, and his discharge an outrage upon the justice of the land; consequently, he was alive to every expedient which would again procure him the smiles of the court. \*

Marriages have, in all ages, been employed to strengthen political interests; and in Coke's days the marriage of a child or ward was regarded as a regular territorial perquisite, to which every lord of a manor was clearly entitled, even upon the marriage of his tenant's orphan children. That Coke viewed these marriages as mere matters of bargain, is shown by the way in which he now proposed the espousal of his youngest daughter by the Lady Hatton, Frances Coke, to Sir John Villiers. This event arose in 1617, the year after his disgrace, since which he had been living in retirement, at his seat at Stoke in Buckinghamshire.

Coke gladly proposed, through Winwood, this marriage to the favourite Buckingham; for Sir John Villiers was Buckingham's eldest brother. An account of this proposal being written to Buckingham, then on a progress with the King in Scotland, the offer was very readily accepted. The Lady Frances Coke was only about fourteen years of age; and her inclination in this affair was never thought of, nor was even her mother consulted in the match. Coke considered only one darling object—how to recover his interest at court: and for this he was evidently willing to make any sacrifice.

Lady Hatton, indignant at this unfeeling conduct, carried off the Lady Frances, and secreted her first at Sir Edmund Withipole's house, near Oatlands, and then at a house of Lord Argyle's, near Hampton Court. Coke, who was violently enraged at this spirited resolution, immediately desired Buckingham to procure a warrant from the Privy Council, for the restoration of his daughter. But before this could be procured, having discovered the place of her retreat, he proceeded with his sons to Oatlands, and carried her away by force; breaking through several doors, before he could obtain her.

Upon this, Lady Hatton, following her husband's foolish example, indignantly complained of the outrage to the Privy Council;—thus making public a family feud, which highly amused the lovers of scandal, and long occupied their attention. Bacon,

too, strenuously opposed the proposed union; for he saw the important object which Coke had in view, and the advantages which his great rival would probably derive from its accomplishment."

But, however much we may respect the conduct of Coke as a great constitutional lawyer, he assuredly in private, as in public, bore himself in that arbitrary and tyrannical manner which must eventually estrange affection; and, heedless of the natural feelings of his wife, and even against the feelings of his daughter, he determined on prosecuting this obnoxious union. The conduct of the wife and daughter on this occasion, is told in the 'Curiosities of Literature,' and is therefore known to most readers; and there also is to be found the confidential instructions given to Lady Hatton by her legal adviser, from which may be collected much curious information. The following letter, from the same haughty lady, we do not remember to have seen before, and it is admirable for its spirit, and the tact with which she reminds the parvenu favourite of the superior dignity of her own family. While the treaty was pending, Buckingham had required of her to contribute largely to the marriage settlement:

" August, 1617.

" My Lord,—Notwithstanding my late respectful proceedings in this cause of your brother's, in which I come as near your design as in honour and conscience I could, I am threatened with much hard dealing, and no consideration to redeem me hence, unless I will quit my estates.

" I will not repeat my grievances past and present, and thence ground my just answer to this hard additional demand; yet give me leave to tell you, that with noble houses the alliance is as much sought as portion, and that which is merely by me; and by me your brother is let into no mean family, which though for the present he less needed, hereafter may be to him the chief advantage of his match.

" This then, thus endeavoured and so much differing from the honour this connexion would bring with it, I have no cause to think your Lordship, being so noble, would favour, much less set this course.

" And therefore I deal freely with you, that to this altar I will never sacrifice my estate, nor thereby unwind myself from any entanglement, wherein I may be supposed.

" Neither for want of patience to endure the worst, speak I this language following,—that I shall be glad of your Lordship's favour, and that your brother for my daughter's sake may deserve my love, which will rather be increased towards him, for the good return I shall receive from you.

" Thus have I expressed myself, which if not accepted shall not be denied, but that in respect I have shewed you, by what way I may be had, and so I rest, &c."

But Coke was determined to regain favour at court, and for this miserable purpose he sacrificed his young daughter, only fourteen years of age, to the profligate brother of the favourite. Lady Hatton (for she refused to be called by her second husband's name,) never forgave this cruel proceeding,—and, from that time to his death, they lived in the strictest separation. The following extract from one of her letters is characteristic:—

" Sir William Cornwallis was the man who came from Sir Edward Coke, by whom I returned this answer, that if Sir Edward Coke would bury my first husband according to his own directions, and also pay such small legacies as he gave to divers of his friends, in all coming not to above 7 or 900*l.* at the most, that was left unperformed—he having all Sir William Hatton's goods and lands to a large proportion—then would I willingly stile myself by his name. But he never yielded to the one, so I consented not to the other. The like answer I made to my Lord of Exeter, and my Lord of Burghley, when they spoke to me of any such business.

" And whereas he accuseth me of calling him, 'base and treacherous fellow,' the words I cannot

deny, but when the cause is known, I hope a little passion may be excused. It was when he had assigned away all my living by my first husband, and sold his daughter, who was left to my trust and care by Sir William Hatton, and afterward he deceived the children he had by me of their inheritance.

" His sixth accusation of me is the number of attempts I made the last summer against your Majesty's command concerning this late marriage of my son Villiers and my daughter. I must confess I ignorantly did many, for which I humbly crave pardon for all such offences as were by me committed, after your Majesty's pleasure known, and I give myself the happiness to believe that your Majesty hath fully forgiven all those whatsoever."

The marriage, as might be expected, was most unhappy. The husband, who was created Viscount Purbeck, soon separated from his wife, who became the mistress of Sir Robert Howard; and, "deserted by her husband, disowned by the Villiers family, and a disgrace to her own, she had been a wife five years, and had become an outcast from her country, before she was twenty years of age."

The means by which Coke hoped to regain the favour of the court, were not, however, successful;—he was never restored to his former station, and he again entered the lower house as a member; and during the first session he had to bring up to that house, in which he had formerly sat, a message from the Commons. His conduct during his second parliamentary career, was marked by the same political independence which had characterized him as a judge; and the weight of his integrity and talents are forcibly acknowledged by Bacon in his letter to Buckingham, where he wished for "some round *caveat* to be given him from the King," to put a stop to his free speaking. Bacon had indeed good reason for wishing this, in regard to himself, for the same session witnessed his impeachment for corruption. On this occasion, however, Coke, although he joined in the impeachment, refrained from taking any prominent part. In the subsequent parliaments, notwithstanding his advanced age, Coke appears to have regularly sat; in the last called by James in February, 1623, he was returned for Coventry; and soon after its dissolution, he, with Sir Robert Phillips, was sent to the Tower, while Selden, Pym, and Malory, were confined in other prisons. His papers were seized, and his chambers sealed up, and himself treated with unwarrantable severity. Coke was, however, soon set at liberty: he sat in the first parliament of Charles—and finally in that of 1627—the same that witnessed the commencement of Cromwell's parliamentary career. His speeches during this session breathe the noblest sentiments of liberty, and doubtless aided much in inciting the great men who afterwards stood up in his place, to contest for it. This parliament was dissolved in 1628, and Sir Edward Coke finally retired from public life.

As the infirmities of age crept on, his friends were naturally solicitous for the preservation of his life. There is in the Harleian MSS. a letter from Mr. Mead to Sir Martin Stuteville, which bears ample testimony to the long continued health of Sir Edward Coke, and his hatred of physic. This letter was written about the year 1635, when Coke was more than eighty years of age.

" Sir Edward Coke," says Mr. Mead, "being now very infirm in body, a friend of his sent him two or three doctors to regulate his health, whom he told that he had never taken physic since he was born, and would not now begin; and that he had now upon him a disease, which all the drugges of Asia, the gold of Africa, nor all the doctors of Europe could cure—old age. He therefore both thanked them and his friend that sent them, and dismissed them nobly with a reward of twenty pieces to each man."

" Twelve months before his decease, he met with an accident which probably tended to shorten his days; he recorded it in his memorandum book with

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through life, though it was the last entry he made  
in it.

"The third of May, 1632, riding in the morning  
in Stoke, between eight and nine o'clock, to take the  
yre, my horse under me had a strange stumble  
backwards, and fell upon me (being above eighty  
years old) where my head lighted near to sharp  
stones, and the heavy horse upon me. And yet, by  
the providence of Almighty God, though I was in  
the greatest danger, yet I had not the least hurt—  
my, no hurt at all. For Almighty God saith by  
his prophet David, "the angel of the Lord tarrieth  
near about them that fear him, and delivereth  
them," et nomen Domini Benedictum, for it was his

work."

"He had, about a year previous to this accident,  
been reconciled to his daughter, Lady Purbeck, and  
taken her to live with him at Stoke, and she con-  
tinued to live with him until his death. He probably  
saw the error he had committed in uniting her to  
Lord Purbeck, was sorry for his folly, and had com-  
passion on a daughter he had unintentionally assisted  
to render miserable.

"His characteristic love of order, equity, and  
religion, attended him to the last; and in this frame  
of mind, on the 3rd of September, 1633, in his  
eighty-third year, died the great Coke, the glory of  
the English common law, whose name will probably  
be held in reverence, as long as courts of justice exist,  
or lawyers have any regard to precedents."

The works of Sir Edward Coke are too exclu-  
sively legal to admit of review here, and with  
the following eloquent and interesting passage,  
written when he was turned of eighty, and forming  
the conclusion to his Fourth Institute, we  
must conclude.

"Whilst we were in hand with these four parts  
of the Institutes, we often having occasion to go  
into the city, and from thence into the country,  
did in some sort envy the state of the honest plough-  
man, and other mechanics; for one, when he was at  
his work, would merrily sing, and the ploughman  
whistle some self-pleasing tune, and yet their work  
both proceeded and succeeded; but he that takes  
upon him to write, doth captivate all the faculties  
and powers, both of his mind and body, and must  
be only attentive to that which he collecteth, with-  
out any expression of joy or cheerfulness whilst he is  
at his work."

"And you, honourable and reverend judges and  
juries, that do or shall sit in the high tribunals or  
seats of justice, fear not to do right to all, and to  
deliver your opinions justly according to the laws;  
for fear is nothing but a betraying of the succour  
which reason should afford; and if you shall sincerely  
execute justice, be assured of three things: first,  
though some will malign you, yet God will give you  
his blessing; secondly, that though thereby you may  
offend great men and favourites, yet you shall have  
the favourable kindness of the Almighty, and be his  
favourite; and lastly, that in so doing, against  
all scandalous complaints and pragmatic devices  
against you, God will defend you as with a shield;  
for thou, Lord, will give a blessing unto the righteous,  
and with thy favourable kindness wilt thou defend  
me as with a shield."

*Stories of Spanish Life.* From the German of  
Huber. Edited by Lieut.-Col. Craufurd. 2  
vols. Colburn.

It is just two years since Huber's *Skizzen aus Spanien* was reviewed in the *Athenæum*. The translated extracts then given "were remarked," says Col. Craufurd, "by some persons well acquainted with the Peninsula, as affording, even in the imperfect form of Extracts, so lively and faithful a picture of the manners and customs of the people, that they were anxious to possess an English version of the entire work. The translator's attention was in this way invited to the perusal of Huber's work, and, completely satisfied of the accuracy of the delineations of life in Spain, from their perfect agreement with the impressions and recollections which two visits to that country have left on his own mind,

he was induced to undertake the task of giving it to the English public."

Having expressed our opinion of the original work, we have now only to report on the merit of the translation. It appears to us, on a hasty perusal, to be faithful rather than vigorous; but, on this latter point, the reader shall judge for himself. In our former notice we gave some stirring scenes from the 'Fair of Mairena,' the 'Paseo of Cordova,' and the political brawls at Granada: we shall now offer two or three of quiet Spanish life—and, first, of a way-side inn.

#### *La Venta de Cardenas.*

"At the entrance of the well-known pass of Despenaperos, through which the high road leads from Castile to Andalusia, over the Sierra Morena, stands a solitary inn, called the Venta de Cardenas, well known to travellers throughout all Spain. Close behind the house rise the rocky hills of the Sierra Morena, split asunder by gorges. The mountains appear to the traveller, who approaches them through the high and bald plain of Castile and La Mancha, only like a row of low dark-blue hills, while on the southern, Andalusian side, they rise in powerful masses.

"Before the Venta the naked reddish plain of La Mancha extends as far as the horizon, and the eye seeks refreshment from the monotony of this prospect, on the small portion of green, which lies in its immediate neighbourhood. On the side of the house is a thicket of almond trees, and roses, and a small garden run to waste, containing some vegetables, cucumbers, and melons, which, with their luxuriant tendrils and leaves, almost conceal the nearest trees, and bend towards the earth, with the weight of their fruits. In the middle of the garden a wheel to draw water, of the simplest construction, such as was introduced into Spain by the Arabs, is set into creaking motion by a mule, which paces round with blinded eyes and measured step.

"In front of this inn of Cardenas, arrived, on a fine evening of the month of May 1822, a train of heavily-laden mules with their drivers (arreros) and some travellers. Both men and cattle were covered with the red clayey dust of La Mancha, and expressed, each in his way, their joy, at the ending of a long and toilsome day's journey. The tired men were only welcomed by the violent barking of some powerful mastiffs, which were chained up beside the Venta; whilst full a dozen of beautiful greyhounds, such as La Mancha produces, sprang forward from all sides, and increased the noise.

"The Mayoral, or conductor of the train, an old man, whose sunburnt visage expressed honesty united with the cunning of long experience, got off a little mare which he rode, with the exclamation, 'God be praised!' and led her by the bridle, through a small wicket, which was introduced into the great gateway of the Venta, and had been opened in the mean time.

"The mules followed prudently and in good order, one after the other, with long outstretched necks, and placed themselves of their own accord, inside, in such a manner, that they could be conveniently unloaded. The drivers and the travellers followed them, and as it had become dark, the wicket was again carefully closed and barricaded.

"A more detailed description of the inside of the Venta de Cardenas may give the reader a picture of the best class of Spanish Ventas, which sometimes are built at considerable expense, and belong to a magnificent foundation, or to some grand señor, whose coat of arms is then generally displayed over the door. The resemblance of such Ventas to the Caravanserais of the East is striking. The whole forms only one room, a spacious hall, the ceiling of which is formed by the roof of the house itself, with its rafters supported by three rows of strong square stone pillars. Even by day, this extensive space only receives, through a few small apertures in the side walls, and through windows in the roof, a scanty light, to which the eye must first accustom itself before it can recognize objects, and comprehend them. In this hall, there is room for men, cattle, and cargoes; and it may, on many occasions, have given shelter to full a hundred men, and two or three hundred mules, without their incommoding or disturbing each other. Immediately round the gate stood several loaded

carriers' carts and four-wheeled waggons, called 'galeras.' The mules were tied up along the wall on either side, and were only perceived by their stamping and snorting. Around some of the pillars were heaped up the chests, sacks, and bales of different caravans, which had taken up their night's quarters in the Venta, while opposite to the gate, at the farther end of the hall, blazed a cheering fire. The smoke found its way partly through the windows in the roof, and partly rose up like a light cloud under the rafters. The only separate space was a partition on the side of the fire-place, destined for the Ventero and his family, and for keeping the necessary kitchen utensils, forming as it were a small house within the house. Against one wall of this partition were ranged fall a dozen vessels of red clay, of the height of a man, and proportionate breadth, which contained the necessary water for the cattle, while a great number of smaller vessels of a neat form stood upon a plank, within reach of the travellers, whenever they desired to drink. Between the rafters of the roof were some garrets, which seemed to cling there like swallows' nests.

"Round about the fire, and in its vicinity, a great number of men had collected together in separate groups: some occupied with preparing their night's quarters, or their food, while others sat on little stools round small low tables, (reminding one of Eastern customs,) and consumed their frugal supper.

"At the fire was the Patrona, an elderly but hale woman, busy with some maids, in getting ready all sorts of food, which stood around or hung over the fire in several dishes and pots—and the guests carefully made room for the sharp and zealous mistress of the house. A priest, in the dress of the order of Dominicans, seated in a wooden arm-chair, had taken possession of the best place by the fire. He was a corpulent personage, with fiery eyes, a cunning look, a high forehead, and a mouth which expressed severity and imperiousness. Near him sat the Ventero, not seeming to trouble himself about any of his other guests. He was a character such as Cervantes alone can paint, and which is perhaps only to be met with in Spain.

"The travellers last arrived also went up to the fire, and greeted the company with an 'Ave María Purísima!—good evening, Caballeros, may your supper do you good.' This greeting was returned by the muleteers, carriers, and peasants, with that grave politeness which distinguishes, and so greatly facilitates the intercourse, of all classes in Spain.

"Those sitting nearest invited the new-comers to partake of their supper, with the words, 'Do you please to sup with us, gentlemen?' for in Spain the Arab custom still prevails, that no one eats or drinks without having first invited his neighbours, and even passers-by to partake of the meal."

As a companion picture, we shall give a very happy and faithful sketch of country life.

#### *A Farm scene in the South.*

"Antonio's paternal house was one of the first on entering the village. It exhibited towards the street a principal building, or habitation, of about thirty feet in breadth, of two stories, with an azotea or terraced roof, and one single broad window, with a balcony on the second floor, whilst the first floor had only a small aperture. To this part of the house was attached a long and low building, covered with tiles, which extended about sixty-feet, till it reached the next house. This building had no windows at all; but only here and there irregular apertures, and a great gateway, having a small door in one of its wings. Such an exterior as this could not truly present any great architectural beauties; but it was snow-white, and kept in the cleanest condition.

"Antonio stepped with his sister through the open door. It led immediately into a great hall, or more properly, a covered court, which occupied the whole of the abovementioned low building, and measured about sixty paces in length and thirty in breadth. The roof was supported by a row of coarsely-worked wooden pillars, the bases of which rested on blocks of stone, and which went round the whole space. Against these were hung all kinds of implements of husbandry, harness for horses and mules, and also some arms.

Some waggons and carts stood in the back ground of this space, and on both sides there were about

twenty mules, and a few horses separated from them, by a partition, and tied up to racks. On the left side, one stepped from this space, into a small court, from which there was no separation, and which we only call a court, in order to distinguish it from the other space, because the roof which covered the former, ceased here. This court was about thirty feet in length, that is to say, the same as the breadth of the abovementioned covered space, and was about fifteen yards wide from the last pillars of the roof up to the wall of the proper dwelling-house. On two sides of the court were covered passages supported by somewhat prettier columns than those of the first space, but without any kind of architectural ornament. On the third side of the court, there was a kind of a well, inasmuch as an immense earthen jar full six feet in diameter was sunk deep into the earth. In this draw-well, or rather jug, the water is kept fresh, even during the greatest heat. Near the well a date-palm rose high above the house. Along the same side of the wall an immense vine stretched itself out, which covered also a great part of the house, and had formed a green wall over one part of the corridor itself, interwoven with purple red grapes in almost incredible number and size. Lastly, in one corner of the court stood some pomegranate and orange trees, the first nearly bent to the earth by the weight of their curiously-formed reddish capsules, and the latter shining with an abundance of golden fruit and fragrant blossoms, covering the ground on all sides.

"All round the corridor, there were several doors, one of which led by a stair to the upper floor of the house, and the others to the apartments on the ground floor, to which they also served as windows. The upper story of the house had some windows towards the court, but they were without glass. The whole was cleanly, it is true, but it is evident that this cleanliness was more the effect of a fine climate than of any particular pains on the part of the inhabitants, for half-crushed oranges were lying all about in the court, and the rank grass grew up from between the paving stones.

"When Antonio entered, some servants were employed in the semi-obscurity of the court, taking care of, and feeding the mules and horses. Nearest to the court, and turning his back to them, was a young man in his shirt sleeves employed in mending a bridle. Under the corridor, on a small wooden stool, sat a young woman of about five and twenty, in negligent domestic attire, with her head bare, and some roses in her black hair. She was occupied in cleaning vegetables, a great heap of which lay before her. Opposite to her, seated upon an old arm chair, made of twisted willow, was an old Carmelite monk, with a long white beard and fiery eyes, but of mild expression.

"Two boys, of nine or ten years old, were playing about in the court, without any other clothing than a shirt and short brown trowsers. \* \* On perceiving Dolores, they both ran to her with loud cries of 'Aunt Dolores! aunt Dolores! what have you brought us?' At this, the young man got up (it was Antonio's eldest brother, Juan), and held out his hand to Antonio (for without recollecting him, he guessed it could be no one else), with a hearty 'Welcome, Antonio.' Dolores was embraced by her sister-in-law, whilst the two boys would not willingly let go of her, but at length she extricated herself from them, and ran up to the ecclesiastic, whose hand she kissed with great respect, making many eager inquiries after his health, whilst he, stroking her cheeks with visible emotion, said, 'The holy Virgin bless you a thousand times!'

"Antonio recognized him immediately as the old Father Hilario, whose favourite he had been as a boy, and to whom he had, in many respects, reason to be thankful; he hastened up to him and seizing his proffered hand, kissed it in speechless emotion.

"The old man appeared surprised for a moment, and then said, with tears in his eyes, 'God bless you, Antonio! you are always, then, my good son.'

"Dolores had looked on with folded hands, and Juan said, with a softer voice than was usually his custom, 'That is our Brother Antonio, wife.'

"This last made an embarrassed courtesy, and wished to kiss the hand of her reverend brother-in-law, but he would not suffer it, and, shaking her cordially by the hand, reminded her of their early

acquaintance. Juan seized the two boys, who had crept shily behind their aunt, and they were now obliged to kiss their uncle's hand, as in duty bound, but ran away immediately, and could only be allure back when they saw Dolores displaying her little presents. The servants also had come up at the noise of the welcoming, and greeted their young mistress (who had something friendly to say to everybody) with cordial joy, and welcomed also Antonio in a reverential manner, yet not without visible pride at the honour which accrued to their master's family by having a son in the church. They then hastened away to unload the mules who had come up with their burdens, and announced their presence impatiently by clattering the bells upon their heads.

"'Father and mother are on the farm,' said Juan at last, when the party had become somewhat more calm, 'but they will be home directly,' and accordingly, almost immediately afterwards, they made their appearance.

"The mother, an old woman, who must have been once very handsome, with a countenance, such as is given to St. Anne in Murillo's pictures, wore a Basquinia of coarse black velvet, and on her head a Mantilla of the same material without any trimming. She sat sideways on a handsome ass, which carried her without requiring any guidance, and beside her stepped the father, a hale man, who did not show the seventy years full of labour and dangers of all kinds, through which he had lived. He wore a short jacket of black plush, ornamented with some silk braids and with embroidery, and short white pantaloons of the same stuff, a fine and very broad jabol, and a silk handkerchief round his throat, a red sash round his body, and lastly, shoes and gaiters of light brown leather, reaching close up under his knees, yet so that one could see the white linen clothing which he wore beneath. He carried a long Biscayan firelock on his shoulder, and beside him ran two handsome greyhounds. A maid followed her master, driving an ass before her laden with vegetables and fruits—such as melons, cucumbers, and glowing red pimientos; figs, oranges, and grapes; together with a small bundle of juicy sugar-cane, which last, the children immediately pounced upon, and began to suck it, and to beat each other with it.

"Antonio hastened to meet his mother, who recognized him immediately, and fell speechless and sobbing upon his neck. She only relaxed her embrace in order to consider him with the careful look of motherly love, and again to press him in her arms, till Dolores, who had greeted her father with a timid kiss of the hand, at last claimed her share also of motherly affection, and Antonio could turn to his father, who shook him cordially by the hand without any particular emotion, but with a hearty 'Welcome, Antonio, welcome home.' After the first storm of joy and emotion of questioning and answering was past, the father reminded them that it was time for the evening meal. A plank was now laid upon two low blocks, which formed together a long low table in the middle of the court, and this was covered with a coarse but clean cloth. A few common earthenware dishes full of gazpacho\* were then brought, and all the inhabitants of the house seated themselves on low stools round the table, the servants and the maid at the lower end, at the upper end Father Hilario, who was always a welcome guest, next to him old Juan and his wife, and beside the latter Antonio, to whom Dolores had been obliged to yield her place. The wooden spoons which drew from all sides upon the dishes soon emptied them, and olives, together with snow-white bread, concluded the frugal repast. Some glass jugs of wine, however, were not wanting, from which the men poured the wine down their throats, holding them with a skilful hand high above their heads."

In conclusion we shall offer a slight sketch of the land approach to  
Fair Cadiz, rising o'er the dark blue sea.

"After four days of slow progress, the travellers safely reached, about mid-day, the Cabezas de San Juan, from which one first beholds Cadiz with its bay and the ocean. This picture has a very peculiar character, and although it is not, perhaps, well adapted for the representation of the painter, it impresses

\* Gazpacho is a sort of macedoine, consisting of cucumbers, crumb of bread, garlic, pimiento, vinegar, oil, and water, and is a very cooling dish.

itself ineffaceably on the imagination. The scene is completely wanting in shade, and in mild tones, and the abundance of light is painful to the eye—the azure blue sky! the dark blue sea, reflecting the beams of the sun with thousand-fold brilliancy. The snow-white dazzling walls, and flat roofs of Cadiz, which emerges like a gem from the blue flood; the bald and mostly white downs round the bay; the white buildings of Puerto de Santa Maria, Puerto Real, La Carreca, San Fernando, and other places, scattered along the shore like glittering vases. The white sails of the innumerable vessels of every form and size, which cut the blue mirror in all directions; and all this almost without a tree, except some palms scattered along the coast, with a foreground, of the gigantic aloe and the cactus. All this without any other colour or shade of colour; yet brilliant blue and dazzling white make an almost stupefying impression; and whoever has once stood on this spot would never forget it, even if it had not been the place where Riego began his career, which he was at last to end, like that of the noble Padilla before him, upon the scaffold.

"Whilst the Carreteros followed the main road which leads over the bridge of Suazo, and the la de Leon, to Cadiz, Antonio and his sister entered a boat laden with fruit and flowers, and passed from Puerto de Santa Maria, to the mole of Cadiz. There is, perhaps, no town which has such a continual holiday appearance as Cadiz. This arises partly, from the circumstance of the streets cutting each other at right angles; from the height of the houses, being in proportion the most agreeable to the breadth of the street, and their structure and size being almost uniform throughout; from the streets being carefully paved; and also from quite a Dutch degree of cleanliness prevailing both inside and outside the houses, which, however, is more the result of the climate and situation than of any particular care.

"But this holiday impression which Cadiz produces, arises still more from the incredible fulness of light, which the imagination cannot reconcile with the usual every-day life, especially of a commercial town. It appears to the stranger, especially to the northern one, as if he were living in one of the palaces of sapphires and brilliants, such as are described to us in eastern fairy tales. Wherever the eye turns, it meets with nothing but the beaming blue sky, the blue sea, or dazzling white walls. So that it becomes, as it were, intoxicated with excess of light. Life also, in Cadiz, has a permanent appearance of festivity, and one often asks oneself where the trade and traffic are really carried on; for wherever one looks, it appears as if people were only enjoying here what they had acquired in other places. In Cadiz, all the spirit of the life of an Andalusian seem to be united as in a focus. The impression of the whole is at first stupefying, then painful—the eye pines for green—the body for shade—the mind for rest; and Cadiz soon appears like an enchanted vessel in the middle of the sea, from which one is heartily glad to set foot on the broad green land again."

We wish Col. Craufurd had not weighed down the slight volumes by the Historical Preface;—the subject must be too familiar to the majority of readers to require any such formal introduction.

*The Trade-routes of the Arabs, under the Abbassides, through Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe—[Die Handelszüge der Araber, &c.]*  
By Friederich Stüwe. Berlin, Duncker, London, Schloss.

The Royal Society of Göttingen did well in proposing, as the theme of a prize essay, "the trade of the Arabs by land and sea, through Asia, Africa, and the eastern part of Europe, during the period of the Abbassides." A better subject could hardly have been selected for the purpose of drawing forth, in an applicable form, the treasured fruits of Oriental studies. The historic light derivable from Arab writers has been, as yet, but imperfectly concentrated, although on some matters, as trade for example, those writers offer very copious as well as original information.

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well in pro “the trade through Asia, Europe, during latter subject the purpose in form, the The historic as been, as although on those writers information.

The period marked out for consideration, the most brilliant in Arab history, was also the darkest period in the annals of Europe; and it is curious to observe, that while in this quarter of the globe the traces of a civilized intercourse grew faint and few, or wholly disappeared, the ramifications of the Arab trade extended nearly to all the known parts of the earth. Whatever influence the Koran may have exerted on the civilization of mankind, it is certain that it owed its persuasiveness not more to the character of its precepts, than to the mercantile habits of those who promulgated them. The question proposed being thus intrinsically interesting, transmits, of course, a certain portion of its merit to the successful essay, the title of which stands at the head of this article. M. Stiwe has indeed, produced a commendable volume, offering abundant evidence of industry and good sense; but we are bound to add, that it wants, at the same time, that full possession of its subject, that keen insight into the nature of events, that maturity of thought and power of vivid expression, which are required to form the consummate historian. As a prize essay, it is certainly entitled to an indulgent consideration; it is, probably, the work of a young author—a kind of *pierre d'occasion*, written under prescribed conditions, and within a given time; not the well-ripened fruit of study, but a hasty, forced production, owing to fancy that influx of ideas which ought to have been derived from grave meditation. As an example of what may be gathered in a field not yet sufficiently cultivated, we are willing to acknowledge its value, while we must, at the same time, state our belief that it might be easily surpassed.

The first and pervading fault of M. Stiwe's essay is, that it breathes throughout the spirit, not of history, but of panegyric. Taking at once “the high priori road,” and assuming that the whole character—even the mercantile habits—of the Arabs had their origin in the Koran, he proceeds to derive from the precepts of the sacred volume, and the wisdom of the Caliphs, the rapid progress and wide extension of Arabian commerce. But to suppose that the Koran exerted a predetermined and unfailing influence in re-modelling any portion of human nature, is to ascribe to it a more miraculous character than we feel warranted in admitting; and as to the perfect wisdom of the first Caliphs, it is too often only inferred from their success, to be fairly and logically adduced as its cause. It is difficult to make an extract from a work of so level and monotonous a kind as that now before us; but the following observations, on the commercial genius of Mohammedanism, we believe to be a favourable specimen of our author's style and manner.

Nowhere has the predominance of moderation appeared so conspicuous as in the wars of Islam. The wild Bedwin submitted, without a murmur, to commands which were opposed to his inclinations. His obedience was as blind as his courage in battle—for of what use was foresight to one whose doom was predetermined? and the destructive plans of a warlike Kaled were overruled and set aside by the wisdom of an Obeidah. How much suffering subsequently endured on the same soil by thousands of Crusaders, owing to the rivalry and jealousy of their chiefs, might have been avoided by the imitation of such an example! And did not this moderation arise from elevated prudence, bent on the creation of a great trade, and which felt its advantages the further the word of the Prophet extended? Inasmuch as trade itself was sanctified by the words of Mohammed, how could it fail to obtain consideration, or how could it be better countenanced, than by sparing the conquered countries as much as possible, and by making new settlements in them? It was not fertility of soil which induced them to make these settlements, as is manifest from the site chosen for the city of Bassorah, the sunburnt vicinity of which was won by

artificial means from the desert. Neither was it the necessity of establishing garrisons to protect the newly-conquered provinces; for the eight hundred men, not all of them warriors, who formed the first population of Bassorah, were little capable of lording it over such countries as Fars and Irak; and besides, it would have been more natural to fix the garrison in the capital of the fallen empire of the Sassanides. The true object, therefore, of the foundation of Bassorah was the extension of trade, as is further evident from the great commercial advantages of its site, which maintain the importance of the place even to the present day.

The character as well as the progress of Arabian trade, may be easily calculated from this commencement. In the eyes of the devout Mohammedans it was, to a certain extent, a religious duty, for it was enjoined by the Prophet. Man never fulfils a prescribed duty so cheerfully as when it accords with his inclinations and his habits.

After descanting, we think rather too positively, on the tolerant spirit of the Koran, and enlarging on the somewhat fanciful remark, that the circumstance of the market-place in Arab towns being round or close by the mosque, is an outward sign of the inseparable nature of trade and the true faith, our author proceeds in an agreeable vein to consider the effects on the mercantile community of the annual pilgrimages to Mecca.

All the Arabs scattered abroad were brought into connexion with one another by that precept of the Koran, which required every true believer to make, at least, one pilgrimage to Mecca during his life. And as the state was bound to provide for and protect the pilgrims' caravan, traders were always glad to join it, and to travel under the safeguard of religion and the state. The office of conducting and guarding these caravans was considered one of great distinction. The Prophet himself, during his five years residence in Medina, had administered that office so as to make it sacred; and Mansur, the second of the Abassides, thought it no mean distinction to have several times filled the honourable post of Protector of the Pilgrims. The law founded on the example of Mohammed, gave rise to the dignity of *Emir of the Pilgrims*. As soon as a company of pilgrims and merchants had assembled together in any country, the *Emir el hadj* placed himself at their head, and from that instant every one was bound, whether halting or during the march, to yield him implicit obedience. No one was permitted to quit the place which was in the first instance assigned to him, nor was he allowed to travel at one time in the van, at another in the rear of the caravan. When the stations were far apart, the march was continued day and night without any interruption, but that of the five times of prayer; and when, at length, a resting place was reached, the leader assigned the place where each was to pitch his tent and unload his camels, while the armed men went round the encampment to guard it from the attacks of the wandering tribes. These halting places, however, sometimes put on the appearance of busy markets, when the Bedwins, unable to supply their wants by pillaging travellers, approached the caravans peaceably, and purchased goods.

Although the specific object of M. Stiwe's treatise is to explain the development of Arabian commerce under the Abasside dynasty, yet it does not appear to us that he would have been venturing too far beyond his limits, if he had stepped aside to investigate the origin of the Arabian trade, and had pressed his inquiries a little way beyond his hypothetical starting-point. It is certainly worthy of remark, that nature seems to have given to the Arabs a prescriptive right to the almost exclusive enjoyment of a great carrying trade. Their home is the tent, in the midst of the desert; their wealth lies in droves of fleet horses and of dromedaries; their only occupation is to roam over the vast solitudes in quest of pasture or of spoil. As guides, their services are indispensable to all who would cross the trackless waste. They are not only acquainted with, but have also possession of the

passes; and it is optional with them either to monopolize the trade carried on across the desert, or to levy a high impost on it. Now, an immense tract of desert extends, from west to east, through the entire length of the old world. Beginning at the most western point of Africa, on the shores of the Atlantic, the parched waste continues, without interruption, quite across the continent to the narrow valley of Egypt, beyond which it immediately recommences. The dry plains and rocks of the Isthmus of Suez, connect the deserts of Africa with those of Arabia and Syria, which extend eastward to Persia, itself but a cluster of oases or verdant spots in the midst of deserts. Turkestan, separated from Persia by an arid sandy region, many days march in width, is like the latter country, but a speck of verdure in the midst of interminable barrenness. Beyond Turkestan, immense deserts stretch eastwards some thousand miles along the northern confines of Thibet and China, almost to the eastern ocean. Nearly in the middle of this great zone of desert are the Arabs, occupying a peninsular country, situated between the three seas, on which was chiefly collected the commerce of antiquity,—viz. the Red Sea, the Mediterranean, and the Persian Gulf. They were interposed, in some measure, between the most civilized of the ancient nations,—viz. the Indians, Persians, Assyrians, Phoenicians, and Egyptians. From this circumstance alone, we might be justified in inferring that the Arabs, in ancient times, had a considerable carrying trade. But this is in fact respecting which we have the distinctest testimony. Thus the prophet Ezekiel, (chap. xxvii. v. 21—24,) in predicting the downfall of Tyre, alludes first to the traffic of the Bedwins in their pastoral produce.

“Arabia, and all the princes of Kedar, they occupied with thee in lambs, and rams, and goats; in these were they thy merchants.”

The next verse introduces the Arab tribes of Yemen, carrying with them the produce of the African, chiefly the Somâly, coast.

“The merchants of Sheba and Raamah, they were thy merchants; they occupied in thy fairs with chief of all spices, and with all precious stones and gold.”

Then come the tribes from the vicinity of the Persian Gulf, evidently laden with Indian produce.

“Haran, and Canneh, and Eden, the merchants of Sheba, Asshur, and Chilmad, were thy merchants.”

“These were thy merchants in all sorts of things, in blue clothes and broderied work, and in chests of rich apparel, bound with cords and made of cedar, among thy merchandise.”

Again, we find that when the Ptolemies succeeded in opening a trade with India by the Red Sea, the merchandise was carried over the desert between the port of Berenice and Coptos on the Nile, on camels, by the Arabs, who had been long in possession of that tract of country. The camel, it may be remarked, was not employed by the ancient Egyptians, and its figure nowhere occurs, we believe, on their painted or sculptured monuments.

The familiarity of the Arabs with the desert, and their aptness for the wandering life of the caravan, were qualifications derived from nature, not from the Koran; and, as such, were the more indispensably required to be pointed out by the historian of Arabian commerce, inasmuch as they exercised the strongest and most abiding influence on the direction in which the empire and the faith of the Mohammedans extended themselves. All the conquests of the Caliphs that had any permanency, were in the vicinity of the great desert zone, pointed out above, and subsisted for the most part on the trade carried on in caravans across it. The part of the world

where the conquests of the Arabs have effected the greatest revolution, made the deepest impression, and operated most beneficially on the state of society, is, perhaps, western Africa, on both sides of the Sahrā, or great desert; and yet, when we consider the physical and moral condition of the various tribes tenanting that extensive region, from the Berbers of Mount Atlas to the Negroes on the banks of the Senegal, their low state of civilization, and the nature of the burning plains in which so many of them find not merely support, but abundance, we can hardly avoid concluding that, taken collectively, they have benefited much less by the introduction of the Koran than by that of the camel.

But to these strictures, perhaps, our author may be supposed to reply, "It is very true that a little inquiry into the genius, habits, local circumstances, and migrations of the Arab race, before the time of Mohammed, might have contributed not a little to explain the rapidity with which they spread abroad after he had given them the impulse, but I was precluded from such investigations by the terms of the question proposed, which confined me to the nature and extent of the Arabian commerce under the Abassides." To this argument we have an easy answer. In writing the history of any period, it is always deemed not only a legitimate, but even a necessary preliminary, to give such a view of all events of antecedent date, as seem to prepare or to control in anywise those of the period immediately under consideration. M. Stiwe has, himself, gone back to the wisdom or inspiration of Mohammed, to seek the causes of Arabian prosperity under the Abassides; and having thus undertaken to erect a vestibule to the historic edifice, we think he was bound to place it on good foundations.

In a work drawn exclusively from Arabian writers, some discussion of the character of Arabian literature in general, and of the merits of those authors in particular who are chiefly made use of, is of the greatest importance. The period of literary cultivation among the Arabs, was like a northern summer, wonderful from its display of rapid growth and its luxuriant bloom, though unable to bring the nobler fruits to maturity. In the days of its highest cultivation, the Arab mind was busy rather than enlarged; it aimed at gathering facts without reflection, and had something in its nature alien from philosophy. The eager credulity and want of discrimination of Arabian authors, must be jealously watched on all occasions. Mastūdī, a writer of great reputation, begins his description of the earth by comparing it to a bird, of which Mecca and Medina form the head; Persia and India the right wing; the land of Gog the left wing; and Africa the tail. Another writer, Khalil Dhabhéry, very worthily supplies us, in his 'Cream of explanatory Details,' with the measures of the map so quaintly sketched by Mastūdī, in his 'Golden Meadows.'

The portion of the earth which is inhabited [quoth Khalil] is reported to be estimated at a hundred years' march; that is to say, eighty years for the countries inhabited by Gog and Magog, sons of Japhet, sons of Noah, a region (Siberia) which, situated at the northern extremities of the earth, is bounded by the sea of darkness. Fourteen years are required for the countries occupied by the Blacks, which comprise all that is beyond Mogreb, (Western Barbary), and extend along the same ocean. And finally, the six remaining years' march are required for the countries of Northern Africa, Egypt, Syria, Arabia, Persia, the land of the Turks, that of the Khazars and of the Franks, China, India, Abyssinia, the country of the Sclavonians, that of Rome, as far as the great city of Rome, and other countries; in one word, all the kingdoms occupied by the infidels, a detailed account of which would run to a great length.

This passage, which so perfectly illustrates the

maxim *omne ignotum pro magnifico*, is a fair specimen of the fanciful character of Arabian speculation, and of the nature of the materials which M. Stiwe was called upon to work with. But besides the inaccuracy of the Arabian authors, arising from their want of sound intellectual discipline, their peculiar mode of life led them to view matters from singular points of view, and, consequently, to deal in descriptions which, from the effect of inverted contrast, appear to a European wholly deceptions. To the inhabitants of the rocky desert, the plains of Samarcand and Bokhara, where, during the hottest months of the year, the soil is as hard and naked as a brick, seemed an earthly paradise. Used to the simple shelter of a tent, they were easily filled with amazement at the relative grandeur of towns. They were astonished at the riches heaped up in bazaars, where a European eye would discover only swarms of poor merchants, or pedlars rather, each finding room enough for himself and his whole stock in a comfortless little vault. Our readers will easily perceive how copiously errors from this source are likely to flow in and mingle subtly with the whole stream of thought of one who, like M. Stiwe, thinks that an essay on the history of Arabian commerce must be conceived in the spirit of an eulogy. They will acknowledge that in a treatise on by-gone commercial greatness, in which there are no exact data, no numerical details, it is highly desirable to fix the absolute value of epithets; and they will perhaps pardon the boldness of our scepticism, when we question whether the trade of the Arabs, taken collectively, be not fully as great in the present day as it was in the flourishing period of the Abassides.

Now, if it be a serious defect in our author (as we believe it to be) that he is not himself on his guard, and does not caution his readers, against the deceitful glittering of Arab writers, it is a still greater defect that he superadds his own inexactness to that of his originals. For what more palpable inexactness can a historian be guilty of, than to overlook the dates as well as the character of his authors, and fusing all the available Arab writers, from the eighth to the sixteenth centuries into one mass, to imagine that such a combination, or rather confusion, can fairly represent the age of the Abassides between the eighth and tenth centuries? M. Stiwe frequently cites in the same passage writers of the eighth and of the fifteenth or sixteenth centuries, without once troubling himself to show that the various parts of his picture ever had in reality a contemporaneous existence.

It is obviously impossible to make a correct delineation of the state of Arabian commerce at a particular period, by putting together details of its history collected from every and any period whatsoever. No satisfactory results can be arrived at by so uncritical a process. Nor is the loss of historical conclusiveness in this case the only one sustained. The details furnished by the respective authors are so completely stripped of their individual character,—they are so generalized and flattened by the operation of blending them, as to be deprived in a great measure of their power of interesting. Thus, for example, the Travels of Ibn Batuta are, considered by themselves, highly instructive and amusing, but M. Stiwe has drawn from them little besides a dry abstract of caravan routes. That great traveller lived, it is true, long after the Abassides (he finished his wanderings in 1353), but certainly the historian of Arabian trade might gather much from his pages quite as independent, at least, of dates, as are caravan routes. Ibn Batuta himself travelled over nearly the whole extent of the earth known to the Arab merchants, and, consequently, gives a just idea of the extent of their trade in his age. His descriptions of the

places which he visited, compared with those of antecedent or subsequent Arab writers, suggest many curious reflections. He fully exemplifies the reverence paid to a widely spread religious creed. As a doctor of the Mohammedan faith, he was everywhere received with distinction. He had the honour of escorting to Constantinople, from the camp of her Mohammedan husband, the Christian daughter of the Greek emperor, whom policy had joined in marriage with a Tatar prince. He was for some years judge and viceroy in the Maldivian islands. Wherever he came, he feasted and argued with kings and grandees. From Bulgaria in the north, to Quiloa in the south,—from the shores of the Atlantic to China, he travelled nearly all the roads frequented by his enterprising countrymen, and enjoying everywhere the best opportunities of seeing society, he has faithfully depicted it. It is evident that an author so advantageously admitting of comparison with others, and at the same time so complete in himself, ought not to have been quoted piecemeal, to eke out a description of Arabian commerce, in an age four centuries anterior to that in which he lived.\*

There is yet another fault which we have to find with M. Stiwe. In describing the roads travelled by the Mohammedan merchants, and the countries to which they penetrated, he is often obliged to engage in geographical disquisitions; and in these, wherever doubt or difficulties arise from the obscure or equivocal language of the Arab writers, he shows little skill in extricating himself, and a sad defect of sound judgment. Thus, the island of Oulil, at the mouth of the Senegal, he supposes to be an island in the Quorra. He is very defective, also, in his sketch of the trade carried on by the Arabs through the Abyssinian countries, chiefly from the port of Zeila, a place of great importance, and respecting which trade some hints may be collected from Macrizi's history of the Mohammedan kings of Abyssinia.

In making these remarks, we have no wish to condemn the work of M. Stiwe, which has much to recommend it in the novelty of its design, and is, besides, neither useless nor inelegant. But it is necessary that rigorous criticism should prevent history from forgetting its proper function, and sliding from truth into mere verisimilitude. In reviewing a volume, therefore, which neither its own style nor our limits rendered it expedient to analyze, we have confined ourselves to such reflections as seemed calculated to awaken the critical observation of the reader, and might thus enable him to peruse the work in question with the greatest advantage.

#### THE ANNUALS FOR 1838.

*The Book of Gems; the Modern Poets and Artists of Great Britain*: edited by S. C. Hall.—With this, his third volume, Mr. Hall brings his labours to a close:—the preface states, distinctly and without parade, the difficulties which he has had to encounter, in making an equitable selection from among his contemporaries. In the main, we think he has been judicious. With regard to the specimens selected, of course there will be as many opinions as readers—every editor has a way of his own, and Mr. Hall has adhered to his steadily:—his biographical notices, too, are satisfactory and pleasant. The illustrations, as a whole, we think even more beautiful than those of former volumes. The first (not by any means the best) is an engraving from Pickersgill's portrait of Wordsworth—the poems of Byron are headed by a couchant hound, engraved by

\* Our readers need hardly be informed that Professor Lee's translation of Ibn Batuta's Travels, published by the Committee of the Oriental Translation Fund, was made from an abridgment. We are just informed that a copy of the original work, in its complete state, has been recently brought to London from Spain.

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Stocks after Landseer—those of his antagonist, Southey, by a morning scene, admirably engraved by Miller, after Turner; which, with its gaunt, wide-spreading fir-tree, not yet lit up by the rising sun, almost reaches the sublime. Another little piece of magic, rendered also by Miller, from one of Bonington's Venetian scenes, introduces the works of Shelley. So many and just exceptions have been taken to Mr. Parrish's love for fine clothes in preference to their wearers, that it is a grateful change for us heartily to commend his 'Garden of Boccaccio,' to which Coleridge's stanzas succeed. Martin is glorious in his 'Adoration of the Shepherds,' which is prefixed to Mr. Milman's poetry: in striking contrast to this, Holland has done justice to the 'Wonders of the Lane,' sung by that honest enthusiastic lover of nature and his fellow-men, the 'Corn-law Rhymer.' Westmacott's graceful sculptural group is somewhat out of place, when down-looking over the quaint, fantastical verses of Charles Lamb. The next vignette is Creswick's very lovely village churchyard, with its fence of ivied ancient trees, which accompanies the sacred lyrics of James Montgomery. The well-known picture of young Rosa and the picture-dealer, by M'Clise, stands before some passages from Sotheby's 'Italy' (a poem too sparingly read). The waxen-draped lady, Keats's 'Madeline,' who comes next, has either been carelessly finished in the drawing, or engraved at a disadvantage, for the composition by Jones is simple and beautiful. Wilson's shore scene, at the head of the pages allotted to Hogg—Roberts's minster-porch, which gloriously illustrates Felicia Hemans's Cathedral Hymn, are far better: and how beautifully appropriate is the union of Collins and Allan Cunningham! Wyon gives Leigh Hunt the ornament of a rich and graceful bas-relief; and Mulready a country tavern, with a rider refreshing himself at the door, to the verses of the Northamptonshire Peasant. Rogers's Italian song is well and characteristically prefaced by Penry Williams—the name of this artist promises vine-tendrils and fazzoletti. Inskip's Little Red Riding-hood is good—not so the wicked wolf at her side; and, had we been L. E. L., we would have said as much, if, as we fancy, the verses which accompany the design appear in print for the first time. The sweet evening scene, by Reinagle, though it does not show "the star that bringeth home the bee," so musically sung by Campbell, makes us forget its two predecessors. There is a fine miniature of stormy heaven and rough water, and, in the midst, St. Michael's Mount shooting up into the sky, in the vignette by Bentley—which, however, is somewhat too wild to harmonize with the prevailing spirit of the poems of the pastor of Brechin. Peter Pindar is snarled over by a clever group of Hancock's fighting dogs: Edmonstone's 'Maternal Love' is too obviously Italian for Pollok's poetry, with which it is mated—the spirit of the latter, whether it be soft or stern, being essentially the spirit of the old rocks and "moss hags" of the Scottish Covenanters. Hurlstone's Lady, led along by a winning Cupid, is very clever, and beautifully engraved by Watt;—some of Hood's graver poems follow; the collection should, however, have included one of his downright extravaganzas. Mr. Boaden's child in a hat and feather, for all its delicacy, is not Joanna Baillie's "imp"—

— with dimpled cheek,  
And curly pate, and merry eye.

Nor do we like the biographical notice. Chambers gives the best sea-vignette in the book to bear company with the verses of one who, though a woman, has sung boldly and well of the *dolores et delicia maris*—we mean Mary

Howitt. The two last subjects are a beautiful twilight landscape, by Pyne, before T. K. Hervey's verses; and a gipsy scene, by Sidney Cooper, which is somewhat too rural in spirit for Haynes Bayly's companionship, though it may illustrate one particular song among his million. As a whole, the book is splendid; and even our bird's-eye view of its pictorial attractions will, we think, be found tempting.

*Fisher's Drawing-room Scrap Book for 1838:* with poetical illustrations by L. E. L.—The general character of this book is so well known, its illustrations having all done duty in other of the Messrs. Fisher's publications: Miss Landon's versatility in accompanying subjects the most heterogeneous, with verse often spirited, oftener sweet, is also so familiar to every one who has ever looked into an Annual, that we need not offer any preliminary words of description or criticism, but shall content ourselves with giving an extract. The one we select is chosen for the melody of its versification—other of the poems being more original in idea, and nervous in diction.

*The Ionian Captive.*

Sadly the captive o'er her flowers is bending,  
While her soft eye with sudden sorrow fills;  
They are not those that grew beneath her tending  
In the green valley of her native hills.

There is the violet—not from the meadow  
Where wandered carelessly her childish feet;

There is the rose—it grew not in the shadow  
Of her old home—it cannot be so sweet.

And yet she loves them—for those flowers are bringing  
Dreams of the home that she will see no more;

The languid perfumes are around her, flinging  
What almost for the moment they restore.

She hears her mother's wheel that, slowly turning,  
Murmured unceasingly the summer day;

And the same murmur when the pine boughs burning  
Told that the summer hours had passed away.

She hears her young companions sadly singing  
A song they loved—an old complaining tune;

Then comes a gayer sound—the laugh is ringing  
Of the young children—hurrying in at noon.

By the dim myrtles, wandering with her sister,  
They tell old stories, broken by the mirth

Of her young brother: alas! have they missed her,  
She, who was borne a captive from their hearth?

She starts—too present grows the actual sorrow,  
By her own heart she knows what they have borne;

Young as she is, she shudders at to-morrow,  
It can but find her captive and forlorn.

What are the glittering trifles that surround her?  
What the rich shawl—and what the golden chain?—

Would she could break the fetters that have bound her,  
And see her household and her hills again!

*Friendship's Offering, for 1838.*—This Annual has been always remarkable rather for its letter-press, than illustrations; and, this year, the latter are worse than usual. The prose and verse, however, maintain their character—from the first page of Mr. Leitch Ritchie's "Great-great-grandfather,"—a legend of wonder and magic—to the final sonnet, closing the book, which we will transcribe at once:—

*On the Death of a great Actor.*  
He dies—he's dead! Now, farewell grief and scorn!  
Jealousy, hatred, love—to each farewell!  
Who yet hath told, or who shall ever tell  
Again (like him that's dead) your tales forlorn?—  
With every story still he brought us good.—  
Grave joys, sweet tears, a light that touched the heart,  
Great thoughts that bade our own low cares depart,  
And much not now confessed nor understood.

We grieve. Dost thou not grieve? Is thy bright way  
Thronged with no angelic dream?—No! thy soul would mourn.  
The world that prized thee?—No! thy soul would mourn.  
Shouldst thou—inquiring for things passed away—  
Hear heavenly voices, in calm answer say,

"In other regions was that passion born."

Among the prose stories, the editor's own contribution, 'The Wizard Guest,' is one of the best. Besides this, Miss Emma Roberts and Miss Agnes Strickland have furnished each a clever historical sketch,—the Old Sailor a couple of "tough yarns,"—Allan Cunningham a pleasant Highland legend, told, it is said, by Maclean of the Harp, to George the Fourth and Sir Walter Scott, when the latter did the honours of Auld Reekie to the kilted monarch; and the author of 'The Provost of Bruges' (wherefore seen so sparingly?) gives a short sketch, 'The Lisbo-

nese,' besides a tale in verse, which, like his tragedy, is simple, earnest, and forcible. This is the conclusion of 'The Prison-Born,' the title of the tale making any introductory words superfluous:

—His enemy no more  
Has power to bar his steps; the prison door  
Flies open, and again the light of day  
Pours on his shrinking eyes an unchecked ray.  
Oh! who shall pain the rapture of delight,  
From all that meets the boy's unpractised sight;  
While the fond father, with an equal zest,  
Feels all his joy reflected in his breast!  
Old loves revive—and now, from night to morn,  
All crowd to gaze upon the prison-born.  
To proffer new enjoyments, and to see  
The strong effect of every novelty.  
The banquet summons to its board to-day,—  
And who so quick the summons to obey?  
To-morrow night the festive meeting calls,  
And who so late to quit the lighted halls?  
Who each delight so ready to enjoy  
In its first bloom, as the enfranchised boy?  
But, though awhile excitement's sudden flush  
Would make the crimson current mantling rush  
Through his pale cheek—still, the excitement o'er,  
That check returned yet paler than before:  
His spirit failed, a heavy languor stole  
O'er his slight frame, and chilled his buoyant soul.  
New joys must rouse the palling sense again:—  
New joys were tried to rouse it—but in vain:—  
The tender plant, nursed in a twilight gleam,  
Withered and sank before a brighter beam.  
"Nay, he is weary then," the father cried,  
With a faint smile his trembling lip belied;  
"And I will nurse him"—but in vain he nursed!  
Still drooping, fading, weakening from the first,  
Until, at last, upon a weary bed  
The languid limbs of the sick child were laid;  
And o'er him watched the never-sleeping eye  
Of him whose love all labour could defy;  
Eager with hopes—for oh, for one so dear,  
His trembling bosom would not, dared not fear!—  
He thought he slept—and, as he listening hung,  
Startling, the boy his arms around him flung;  
"Father," he cried, "dear father,"—and to his  
He pressed his lips with a convulsive kiss;  
Then gently sunk without a sigh or moan,  
And once again St. Amand was alone!

He did not speak, nor move, nor rave, nor weep;  
But sat and gazed upon that quiet sleep,  
With unblanched cheek, and fixed unwinking eye:—  
His boy so beautiful, he could not die!  
Oh no!—and yet to see him move again,  
Though racked with all the agony of pain,  
Would now be rapture! Then his lips began  
To frame unmeaning words, and, rambling, ran  
On days of happiness:—and then he smiled,  
And promised pleasures to his darling child;  
And played his fingers through his silken hair,  
And said his boy looked never half so fair:—  
Then kissed his brow, and started at its chill,  
And marvelled what could cause that sudden thrill;  
Then chid him for his silence:—night and day  
He spent unweary'd in this ghastly play;  
Yet still was gentle—save when they would seek  
To rob him of his treasure—then would break  
His frenzy into fierceness, while he twined  
Around him with a strength none could unbind;  
And so they left him—day succeeding day—  
Until, at last, the fingers of decay  
Began their leaden markings, and he saw,  
Perplexed and wondering with a childish awe,  
The dark and livid brow and sunken cheek,  
And all the lines of beauty grow more weak,  
Till all were gone; and then his sense grew dull.  
He said, it was no more his beautiful,  
And they might take it now. And so they made  
The fair boy's grave, not in the vault's damp shade,  
But in the air beneath heaven's canopy.  
Decked with young flowers, and not more fair than he.  
And there you oft might see the restless man,  
Pausing the curious novelty to scan,  
And, with his shadowy fingers, one by one,  
Tracing the letters on the graven stone.  
At length, one sunny morning, he was found,  
Stretched lifeless on that little flowery mound,  
With a calm smile upon his lip, that seemed  
As he had passed in peace:—you might have deemed  
His own lost boy had called him to the sky  
And been himself his guide and company.

Another poet who has contributed largely and well to this volume in a different manner, is Cornelius Webbe. There is a poem, too, by Thomas Miller, 'The Desolate Hall,' many stanzas of which are excellent, each containing a picture; nor must the better-known names of Barry Cornwall (who gives a 'Night Sketch taken near Newgate' in his sternest, strongest manner), and T. K. Hervey, be passed without mention. We shall close our notice with quoting three stanzas signed J. R., Oxon.

CHRISTCHURCH, OXFORD.

Night.  
Faint from the bell the ghastly echoes fall,  
That grates within the gray cathedral tower,  
Let me not enter through the portal tall,  
Lest the strange spirit of the moonless hour

Should give a life to those pale people, who  
Lie in their fretted niches, two and two—  
Each with his head on pillow stone reposed,  
And his hands lifted, and his eyelids closed.  
  
From many a moulderling oriel, as to flout  
Its pale grave brow of ivy-tressed stone,  
Comes the incongruous laugh, the revel shout—  
Above, some solitary casement thrown  
Wide open to the wavering night wind,  
Admits its chill,—so deathful, yet so kind,  
Unto the fevered brow and fiery eye  
Of one, whose night hour passeth sleeplessly.  
  
Ye melancholy chambers! I could shun  
The darkness of your silence, with such fear  
As places where slow murder had been done.  
How many noble spirits have died here—  
Withering away in yearnings to aspire,  
Gnawed by mocked hope—devoured by own fire;  
Methinks the grave must feel a colder bed  
To spirits such as these, than to the common dead.

*The Christian Keepsake*, edited by the Rev. W. Ellis.—The remark which we made last year, on the nature of this Annual, which in some degree places it beyond the reach of the general critic, might be repeated *verbatim* on the present occasion; so well—that is, so consistently with a settled purpose—is the book edited. South Africa, the Polynesian Islands, the Waldensian churches, and Christianity warring with superstition in India; these, with slight biographical sketches, are the staple of such serious miscellanies,—with interspersed verses, based upon texts of scripture, or the sun, and the shower, the storm, and the rainbow, and other common phenomena—all discoursed on with one and the same aim and end. To this we need only add, that we consider the present volume superior in interest to its predecessors. The chief contributors are the editor, his wife (known to the literary world as Sarah Stickney), Archdeacons Wrangham and Spencer, the Rev. W. S. Gilly, Mary Howitt, the Rev. T. Dale, Josiah Conder, T. W. Aveling, &c. The illustrations, too, are better than they have been; the frontispiece is an excellent likeness of our lost friend Miss Jewsbury.

*Fisher's Juvenile Scrap-Book* for 1838, edited by Agnes Strickland and Bernard Barton, is, as formerly, a selection of fifteen plates from other works published by the proprietors, accompanied with such stories and verses as are best suited to the tastes of the young. We like them none the less because amusement is not forced, after the strait-lacing fashion of the day, into the service of "Useful Knowledge."—Here may be added ten words in description and dismissal of the *English Annual*, for it needs but to say that it is wholly a republication of prints, prose-stories, and rhymes, which have already appeared in the *Court Magazine*.

Two more republishations remain to be noticed, which, though not strictly Annuals, by their appearing at the same time, and wearing a similar garb, seem to desire protection and mention as such. The first is a handsome volume—*Wanderings and Excursions in South Wales, including the Scenery of the River Wye*, by T. Roscoe, &c.—This is a re-issue of a work which has appeared in numbers, as our readers know; and both the plates and the illustrative letter-press bear the test of collection and comparison against the Annuals which come forth in all the gloss of novelty, better than most of the many similar works with which the press teems. Mr. Roscoe has never been pleasanter than upon Welsh ground; there is an hereditary strain of poetry running through his gossip which gives it elegance as well as interest. How it may be with the Cambrians in the matter of patronizing literature we know not, but all strangers bound for South Wales, (if rich and unbackneyed beauty at home has any attractions,) cannot do better than prepare themselves by looking at the series of views, here so agreeably described by Mr. Roscoe. The second volume of Messrs. Fisher's *Syria, the Holy Land, &c.*, with descrip-

tions of the Plates, by Mr. Carne, is a handsome and carefully got up publication, deserving a large patronage from those whose imaginations travel something farther in search of the picturesque and poetical than the vales of Neath and Swansea or the banks of the Wye.

*Remarks on the Importance of an Inquiry into the Amount and Appropriation of Wages.*  
By W. Felkin, Esq. Nottingham, Dearden; London, Hamilton & Adams.

THIS pamphlet contains the substance of the communication made to the Statistical Section of the British Association during the late meeting at Liverpool. So impressed were the Members with its importance, that, as we stated, (p. 704), the author was requested to publish it, and in a few minutes subscriptions were received for more than a thousand copies. There were assembled on that occasion many of the principal merchants of Liverpool and of the leading manufacturers of the northern counties, and it is but justice to them here to record, that in the discussion of this and similar papers, all evinced an earnest anxiety to promote the welfare of the labouring population; and all agreed that this object might be best promoted by acquiring accurate knowledge of their social and economic condition. Of such an inquiry, the amount of wages received by the labouring classes in manufactures, and the manner in which these sums are appropriated, must necessarily form a very important part. Mr. Felkin says,—

" Could the facts be obtained, their importance would at once be manifest, if it should appear from them, that the wages earned were for a series of years of sufficient amount, in extensive districts to supply the means, if properly appropriated, of obtaining for families in an ordinary state of things, food, clothing, lodging, and the plain education of the children, also in many cases, a plot of garden ground for use and recreation, and a savings' bank deposit besides; and yet that the great bulk of the population thus paid are in the main ill fed, poorly clothed, and indifferently lodged; exhibiting neither suitable care for the comfort and improvement of their children, nor foresight as to their own future circumstances or well being: the husband and father, in a majority of instances, expending for his own personal gratification, all he can command, beyond the bare sum absolutely necessary for the sustenance of those dependent upon him.—Increasing observation and intercourse with the working classes, oblige me to come to the conclusion, that this is in truth the actual and widely extended state of things amongst them."

The special inquiry conducted by Mr. Felkin related to the economic position of the operatives engaged in the hosiery and bobbin-net trade of Nottingham, during the commercial pressure in the early part of the present year. To this subject we mean, at present, to confine our observations, but on a future occasion we shall take a general view of these branches of British industry, because their importance to the country is generally under-rated.

The facts to which Mr. Felkin directs attention, as corroborative of his opinion respecting the want of providential care displayed by the working population, took place in the early part of the present year. Nowhere was the commercial pressure on the manufacturing districts more severely felt, and the distress became so great about the middle of April, that a Committee was appointed to collect funds for supplying the people with employment, unconnected with the staple manufacture of Nottingham.

The subscription amounted to 5000*l.*, and was expended by the end of August, when about a mile of road, through a very picturesque part, had been constructed, with deep cuttings; the value of the adjacent property has been already increased three-fold, with a certainty of further augmentation very speedily; and a way is now opened to a large piece of parish ground, suitable for one hundred garden

allotments for the poor, of a quarter of an acre each, and which land has hitherto been almost useless.

" The total number of applicants were, of lace-makers or twist hands 839, framework-knitters 797, machine smiths 178, and of sundry other trades 164, making altogether 1,978 men, having 1,401 wives, and 3,508 children; being 6,877 persons said to be unprovided for."

The number of applicants became so great, that the Committee resolved to institute a searching inquiry into the circumstances and character of those who came to ask for employment; blank printed forms of questions were supplied to the clerk and his assistants, and from these 1,043 reports were received, forming a sufficiently extensive basis for Mr. Felkin's scrutiny.

" The length of time the men had been partly employed was stated; and it seems that the stocking-makers averaged 17 weeks 1*½* days; lace-makers 21 weeks and half a day; smiths, &c. 20 weeks 1 day and a quarter; the total average of partial employment was 19 weeks 3 days. The stocking-makers had been out of work wholly 5 weeks 1 day on an average; lace-makers 8 weeks 1 day; smiths, &c. 8 weeks 2 days; the total average of entire want of employment was 6 weeks and 5 days. 10 of these men were pensioners, averaging 4*s.* a week. Not one of the 1,043 stated himself to have been a depositor in the savings' bank. 90 of the stocking-makers were, however, in sick clubs, 3 in Provident society, and 11 in Odd Fellows' societies, making 104 out of 452, or one in 4*½*. Of the lace-makers, 128 were in sick clubs, 4 in Provident society, and 9 in Odd Fellows' societies, making 141 out of 498, or one in 3*½*. Of the smiths, &c. 13 were in sick clubs, none in Provident society, and 5 in Odd Fellows' societies, or one in 5. The total is 263, or one in 4 persons, who had provided in some measure for future sickness, and for scarcely anything more."

Some difficulty was experienced in ascertaining the actual clear wages received, which were almost invariably understated by the workmen. But Mr. Felkin spared no labour in acquiring accurate information, and the following results are deduced from his tables:—

" The total average weekly earnings of the 1,043 men appear to have been 13*s.* 7*d.* and of 392 of their wives 1*s.* 11*d.* a week. The total average of the weekly earnings of each family, according to their own statement, would be about 17*s.* 6*d.*—304 of the men had 565 children upwards of 11 years of age, or nearly 2 to a family able to work, whose earnings would be about 3*s.* a week. 661 had 1,600 children below 11 years old, or about 2*½* on an average to each; of these, 300 were above, and 1,300 below, 7 years of age.—The total number of men was 1,043, of wives 779, of children 2,165; the total number being 3,987 persons included in this inquiry.

" The wages of the Nottinghamshire bobbin-net hands averaged, in 1829, 25*s.*; in 1831, 20*s.*; in 1833, 19*s.*; in 1836, 17*s.* a week, which are the rates established by the inquiries on which my statistical papers drawn up and published in those years are founded. Those employed on this fund stated themselves to have received 15*s.* a week. The wages of the stocking-makers in the same district had risen from 9*s.* in 1833 to 11*s.* 6*d.* in 1836. The increasing difficulties of the former class, and the past long-continued and severe privations of the latter, seem to have been alike insufficient to prove to them the importance and necessity of foresight and economy. It may, however, be remarked, that these papers show the fact, that men with five or six children have supported themselves and their families under the circumstances of short work, or total deprivation of labour, as long as the unmarried, or those who had smaller families; and they form the greater proportion of those, whose cases were inquired into, who are contributors to sick clubs, &c."

Out of the 1,043 cases, we find only 245 exhibiting even the partial foresight of belonging to sick clubs; and their number did not rise with the rate of wages. Among the framework-knitters, receiving wages of 14*s.* a week and under, the proportion of contributors to sick clubs is 23.66 per cent.; while of those employed at a higher rate, the proportion is only 19.4

per cent.

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per cent. The conclusion to which Mr. Felkin arrives, may be best stated in his own words.

"I would, therefore, observe, that while a rate of wages adequate to the supply of all their wants, is due to which the working classes are justly entitled, in return for the exertion of their skill and industry, these statistics show there is nothing that many of them so little understand, and, consequently, esteem and practise, as a prudent economy and foresight. And yet they must be induced to exercise these virtues, or their fire-sides will be altogether deserted, and their domestic habits and comforts destroyed; their children will remain uneducated, or receive (what ought to be felt by every parent, not a pauper, degrading to him) eleemosynary instruction from comparative strangers; they will be much over-worked and little cared for; the character and tone of the working man's mind will be greatly perverted and demoralized; and the sub-stratum of society must sink, endangering both our national interests and the general peace."

Mr. Felkin confirms these views by a classified statement of the depositors in the savings bank at Nottingham, from which it appears, that the number and amount of deposits from the staple-trade workmen is very small, but large from the workwomen, whose wages are invariably but of moderate amount. Mr. Felkin points out the importance of continuing these inquiries into the rates and appropriation of wages, which, as far as they have gone, seem to indicate a defect in the economic principles and conduct of the well paid in the working class. The Association subsequently made a grant to a committee for inquiries into the condition of the manufacturing population, and we trust that this special head of investigation will not escape the attention of its members. Mr. Felkin adds,

"In connexion with this subject, it will be of great use to collect the facts respecting the increase or decrease of beer-shops, dram-shops, pawn-shops, and pauperism in manufacturing neighbourhoods, as well as the relative consumption of wholesome food, the cultivation of gardens, the amount of paid education for working men's children, the age at which children begin to labour, the state of institutions for the encouragement of savings, with other details, which will naturally suggest themselves as of collateral importance. From these data, able and patriotic minds will be enabled to draw such inferences, and suggest such plans, as may be of infinite service to the poor and to the community at large."

Mr. Felkin has embraced the opportunity afforded him by the request to publish his paper, to add some general observations, which, however, have not exclusive reference to the operative classes. Thus, he observes,—

"Were a similar inquiry to the one I have proposed into the employment of the pittances earned by the labourer, to be instituted into the disbursements and habits of the great landed and monied proprietors, the learned, or even the manufacturing, trading, and mercantile classes, but slightly elevated above him, it is certain that the very errors we detect in his class, are but copied from the luxury, the pride, the licentious, and intemperate heartlessness so extensively prevalent amongst those whose station and influence cause them to be narrowly observed and closely imitated by those below them."

He reprobates, with some severity, the broad line of demarcation too frequently drawn between the employer and the manufacturing labourer, and points out its pernicious consequences. Having thus cleared away any objection which might be made on account of supposed prejudice against the labourers, he thus proceeds to address the latter:

"If any one intends to improve his condition, he must earn all he can, spend as little as he can, and make what he does spend bring him and his family all the real enjoyment he can. The first saving which a working man effects out of his earnings is the first step; and, because it is the first, the most important step towards true independence. Now, independence is as practicable in the case of an industrious and economic, though originally poor workman, as in that of the tradesman or merchant, and

is as great and estimable a blessing.—The possession of a reserved fund or capital, let the amount be ever so small, so that it is under ordinary circumstances an increasing one, infallibly produces independence of feeling and character; and leads a man to trust to himself, and not to others, for what is necessary to his own comfort and well-being, and the happiness of his family."

Mr. Felkin urges these motives to honourable exertion and foresight, by a striking example,—his own career.

"I have said that this requires a course of laborious exertion and strict economy, a little foresight, and possibly some privation. But this is only what is common to the acquisition of all truly desirable objects. And inasmuch as I know what it is to labour with the hands long hours and for small wages, as well as any workman to whom I address myself, and to practise self-denial withal, I am emboldened to declare, from experience, that the gain of independence, or rather self-dependence, for which I plead, is worth infinitely more than all the cost of its attainment; and, moreover, that to attain it, in a greater or less degree, according to circumstances, is within the power of far the greater number of skilled workmen engaged in our manufactures."

But, perhaps, the most useful lesson Mr. Felkin teaches, is the influence of economy on the question of strikes and combinations. He quotes Mr. Ashworth's paper on the Strike at Bolton, (see *Athenæum*, p. 725.) as a proof that the necessary results of such a course of proceeding are disappointment and misery; while, on the other hand, he shows that if the workmen were thrifty, their capital, in skill and labour, would receive the aid of their capital in money, and be a fair counterbalance to the capital of the master in money, skill, management, &c. He thus concludes his address:—

"I may here not improperly repeat, as generally applicable to combinations and wages, as well as many other questions affecting working men's interests, what I addressed to those employed in the bobbin-net trade in 1831, and again in 1833:—'That the richest, most powerful, and most natural fund on which the working man can rely, is that which he creates himself, by his own savings; it enables him to command the price of his labour, not controlled by his necessities, but influenced by a prudent regard to his own welfare and that of his family.' He who practises economy and foresight, will ordinarily obtain for himself what neither acts of parliament nor any foreign aid can secure,—a healthy body, an independent mind, domestic happiness, and general esteem. He will be an ornament to the class to which he belongs, and be serviceable, in no small degree, to the community at large."

Mr. Felkin has embraced the opportunity afforded him by the request to publish his paper, to add some general observations, which, however, have not exclusive reference to the operative classes. Thus, he observes,—

There is one subject to which Mr. Felkin has incidentally adverted, to which we must direct attention. Among the motives to economy, he mentions that an industrious workman may be enabled to become the owner of his own dwelling; and he instances the conduct of Mr. Ashton, who laid out fifty good houses and gardens thirty years ago, to be acquired and paid for by his spinners out of their hoarded savings. The experiment has completely succeeded, and nowhere can there be found a more prosperous and contented community, than that which has grown up around Mr. Ashton's mills. But the heavy expense attending the conveyance of small freeholds, is, it appears, a serious impediment to the extension of such a plan. Mr. Slaney, we remember, stated, that benefit societies might be so constituted, as to facilitate the legal acquisition of freehold property by their members at a small expense: but to this plan there are many obvious objections; it would, we fear, soon lead to disputes and vexatious litigation. We do not venture to suggest a remedy—that is the duty of the legislator—but we sincerely join Mr. Felkin in wishing that "every working man in Great Britain were either in possession, or on the high-road to occupation, of his own freehold house and attached garden."

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*Goethe's Correspondence with a Child.*—The readers of the *Athenæum* are, it would appear, some twelve months or two years in advance of the English public generally. Here is another work, just published, which was reviewed at great length, and with very copious translated extracts, just two years since—(see Nos. 415, 416, 418). It has been, it appears, translated by Bettina herself, and printed at Berlin. Though our notice excited a good deal of curiosity at the time, we doubt whether the work, taken as a whole, is likely to be acceptable to an English public; it is too essentially German. We are informed in the preface, that it is intended "for the good, and not for the bad;" we need hardly add, that if this judgment be correct, it is for the few, rather than the many.

*The Life and Reign of William the Fourth*, by Rev. G. N. Wright, M.A.—We have heard a whimsical but melancholy anecdote of the last hours of *Louis le désiré*, telling how, that so soon as he was dead the royal corpse was deserted by all his courtiers and attendants, and that some one on entering the death-chamber found therein no watcher save a *frotteur* at work, singing as he scrubbed the hearth! Personally, our late kind-hearted monarch was more affectionately tended in his last hours, but here is a work, sent forth ere his body be scarcely cold in Saint George's vault, which as completely exhibits every sign of ignorance and indifference, as if the man of pipe-clay and brushes had been called up from his knees to write it. When the Life of William the Fourth comes indeed to be written, it will require a more philosophical head, an eye more discerning, a hand, if less flattering, more delicate, than such as Mr. Wright possesses. According, however, to the principles of trade-speculation, the Messrs. Fisher were right in getting up this book, and it contains as little to offend as most of its class.

*The Parterre; or Whole Art of forming Flower Gardens*, by C. F. Ferris, Esq.—In these days of nut-shell knowledge, no one can be surprised at meeting with a treatise, which, within the space of forty-eight little pages, professes to promulgate the whole art of—anything! But Mr. Ferris does even less than most of the thumb-nail encyclopedists: a few vague directions, a few irrelevant quotations, a few absurd lithographs—*voilà tout*, as his friends the French gardeners would say. We used to fancy, that some slight knowledge of the effects and contrasts of colour,—that some little experience as to the succession of flowers, was expected from him, who understood and professed to teach the whole art of parterre-gardening; no such thing, according to Mr. Ferris, but he talks about the pretty ankles of the ladies of the court of Louis Quatorze, and *sprigs* his pages with passages from Byron.

*List of New Books.*—*The Hebrew Wife, or the Law of Marriage*, by S. E. Dwight, with an Introduction, by Dr. Wardlaw, 12mo. 3s. cl.—*Friendship's Offering*, 1838, 12s. bd.—*The Oriental Annual*, 1838, 8vo. 21s. mor.—*Heath's Picturesque Annual*, 1838, sup. roy. 8vo. 21s. velvet.—*The Flowers of Loveliness*, 1838, 4to. 31s. 6d. cl. gilt.—*The Forget Me Not*, 1838, 12s. bd.—*Girdlestone's (Rev. C.) Farewell Sermons at Sedgley*, 12mo. 4s. 6d. bds.—*The Diocesan Statutes of the Romish Bishops of Leicester*, edited by the Rev. R. McGhee, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—*The Protestant Mission Vindicated*, by the Rev. J. Haugh, 8vo. 4s. cl.—*Anti-Mammon*, by the Rev. F. Ellaby, and the Rev. A. S. Thelwall, 3rd edit. post 8vo. 6s. 6d. cl.—*St. John's Letter from the Isle of Patmos*, 18mo. 1s. 6d. cl. 2s. 6d. silk.—*Tant on the Grace of God*, 18mo. 2s. cl.—*A Tribute of Gratitude from a Humble Sinner*, 18mo. 2s. 6d. cl.—*Cox's History of an Old Pocket Bible*, new edit. 1s. 6d. cl.—*Cox's Notes on Nets, &c. &c.*, by the Rev. and Hon. Charles Bathurst, 12mo. 4s. cl.—*Southey's Poetical Works*, Vol. I. (John of Arc), fc. 5s. cl.—*Richardson's Fauna*, Part 4, (Kirby on Insects), 25s. plain, 35s. col., 4to. cl.—*Watson on Homicide by External Violence*, 8vo. 9s. bds.—*The Election Day*, 12mo. 1s. swd.—*Peter Parley's Universal History, on the Basis of Geography*, 2 vols. sq. 12s. cl.—*The Child's Fairy Library*, Vol. I., sq. 2s. 6d. bds.—*Peter Parley's Modern Geography*, sq. 4s. 6d.—*Lewis's Chess for Beginners*, 2nd edit. sq. 5s. 6d. cl.—*De Porquet's French and English Versions*, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—*Laing's Journal of a Residence in Norway*, 2nd edit. 8vo. 14s. cl.—*Burke's History of the Landed Gentry*, Vol. II., 8vo. 18s. cl.—*Stokesfield Place*, 2nd edit. 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d. bds.—*Matthews's Marriage Acts*, with Supplement, 12mo. 7s. bds.—*Matthews's New Criminal Acts*, 12mo. 6s. bds.—*Shipman's Attorney's New Pocket Book*, 12mo. 12s. cl.—*Pickering's Statistics at Large*, 7 William 4. and 1 Victoria, 8vo. 11s. bds.—*Turner's Chemistry*, 6th edit. enlarged, Part 1, 8vo. 7s. swd.—*Quain's Elements of Anatomy*, 4th edit. Part 1, 8vo. 12s. swd.—*Burns's Midwifery*, 9th edit. 8vo. 16s. bds.—*Morton's Manual of Veterinary Pharmacy*, 12mo. 6s. cl.

## METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL FOR SEPTEMBER.

KEPT BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT THE APARTMENTS OF

THE ROYAL SOCIETY, BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL.

1837.	9 o'clock, A.M.				3 o'clock, P.M.				Point at 9 A.M. Dew and Dry Bulb Ther.	External Thermometers.			Rain in inches, Read off at 9 A.M.	Direction of the Wind at 9 A.M.	REMARKS.	
	Barometer uncorrected.		Att. Ther.	Flint Glass.	Barometer uncorrected.		Att. Ther.	Crown Glass.		Fahrenheit.	Self-registering					
	Flint Glass.	Crown Glass.			Flint Glass.	Crown Glass.				9 A.M.	3 P.M.	Lowest	Highest			
F 1	29.368	29.362	57.4	29.386	29.382	59.5	53	05.8	56.3	59.8	50.7	62.3		W	(A.M. Overcast—light wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. Evening, Cloudy—light rain.)	
S 2	29.444	29.438	58.2	29.532	29.526	59.9	52	00.8	55.4	59.7	51.2	62.0	.091	N	(A.M. Cloudy—light brisk wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Evening, Cloudy—light rain.)	
○ 3	29.666	29.660	59.8	29.704	29.700	59.0	49	05.1	53.4	55.8	50.3	61.2	.072	W	Overcast—light wind nearly the whole day. Evening, Light rain.	
M 4	29.920	29.914	56.7	29.934	29.928	58.6	50	03.5	53.0	58.2	51.2	57.3	.055	WNW	Overcast—light wind throughout the day. Evening, Fine and clear. (A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Cloudy—light rain and wind. Evening, Cloudy.)	
T 5	29.864	29.808	57.3	29.912	29.906	58.6	52	04.0	56.6	61.7	49.3	59.7		E	(A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Fine—nearly cloudy. Evening, Fine and clear.)	
W 6	30.060	30.052	55.3	30.010	30.002	57.4	50	03.7	52.0	60.7	47.6	61.6		N	(A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Fine—nearly cloudy. Evening, Fine and clear.)	
T 7	29.946	29.942	58.8	29.872	29.866	60.2	52	04.4	59.3	63.3	51.3	61.6		S	(A.M. Fine—light clouds—brisk wind. P.M. Overcast—brisk wind. Evening, Light rain.)	
F 8	29.930	29.924	59.6	29.932	29.926	60.5	54	02.5	55.6	61.9	54.5	66.0	.158	SE	(A.M. Overcast—light rain. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Evening, Overcast—light clouds and wind throughout the day. Evening, Fine and clear.)	
S 9	29.872	29.866	61.7	29.734	29.730	62.5	55	05.6	60.8	66.8	55.5	62.2		SSE	(A.M. Lightly overcast—light wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. Evening, Cloudy—light rain and wind.)	
○ 10	29.916	29.910	64.4	29.940	29.936	64.0	56	03.7	60.2	67.2	54.7	67.3	.055	SSW	(Fine—light clouds and wind throughout the day. Evening, Fine and clear.)	
M 11	29.822	29.818	64.0	29.718	29.714	64.0	59	04.0	62.5	64.4	56.2	68.0		SE var.	(A.M. Fine—light clouds—brisk wind. P.M. Overcast—brisk wind. Evening, Heavy rain.)	
T 12	29.748	29.746	60.0	29.634	29.630	63.0	55	05.0	54.4	61.0	52.0	67.0	.277	SW	Overcast—light wind throughout the day. Evening, Fine and clear. (A.M. Cloudy—light wind. P.M. Overcast—light wind.)	
W 13	29.154	29.150	61.0	29.100	29.096	62.6	58	04.5	59.8	63.0	52.2	61.6	.052	S	(A.M. Lightly overcast—light wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. Evening, Fine and clear.)	
○ T 14	29.354	29.350	58.0	29.468	29.464	61.0	53	04.5	56.0	59.2	53.0	64.0	.069	NNW	(A.M. Overcast—light wind. P.M. Lightly cloudy—brisk wind. Evening, Fine and clear.)	
F 15	29.634	29.630	59.0	29.750	29.746	58.6	52	04.5	55.5	58.4	49.8	59.5	.055	NW	(A.M. Lightly overcast—light wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. Evening, Fine and clear.)	
S 16	30.004	30.000	56.0	29.964	29.960	57.4	52	05.0	55.0	60.6	48.5	60.0	.011	SE var.	Overcast—brisk wind throughout the day. Evening, Fine and clear. (Light cloudy—brisk wind throughout the day. Evening, Overcast—high wind.)	
○ 17	30.058	30.054	59.5	30.064	30.060	62.0	58	05.5	65.5	67.7	56.0	66.0		W var.	(Light cloudy—brisk wind throughout the day. Evening, Overcast—high wind.)	
M 18	30.052	30.048	62.8	30.026	30.020	64.2	60	04.8	64.6	65.7	61.5	69.7		SSW	Overcast—brisk wind throughout the day. Evening, Fine and clear. (Fine—light clouds—brisk wind throughout the day. Evening, Fine and clear.)	
T 19	30.170	30.164	63.2	30.122	30.116	65.0	60	05.9	63.4	67.8	58.8	63.3		SSE	Overcast—light wind throughout the day. Evening, Fine and clear. (Fine—light clouds—brisk wind throughout the day. Evening, Fine and clear.)	
W 20	30.028	30.022	65.6	29.948	29.942	65.6	61	06.0	66.3	65.2	61.2	68.5		E	Overcast—light wind throughout the day. Evening, Fine and clear. (Fine—nearly cloudy—light wind throughout the day. Evening, Fine and clear.)	
T 21	29.934	30.928	62.2	29.958	29.950	64.9	56	02.7	59.2	65.6	54.3	68.4		NE	(A.M. Cloudy—light wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. Evening, Fine and clear.)	
F 22	30.086	30.080	63.0	30.068	30.062	64.8	58	03.6	60.5	64.2	53.2	68.7		NE	(A.M. Cloudy—light wind. P.M. Fine—nearly cloudy—light wind. Evening, Fine and clear.)	
S 23	30.144	30.136	64.8	30.130	30.122	62.0	55	06.4	58.3	60.2	52.9	65.2		E	(Fine and cloudy—light wind nearly the whole of the day. Evening, Fine and clear.)	
○ 24	30.242	30.236	62.0	30.244	30.240	59.5	50	07.3	56.7	57.3	51.8	61.2		NE	(Fine—cloudy—light wind throughout the day. Evening, Cloudy.)	
M 25	30.320	30.314	58.3	30.302	30.296	58.3	51	06.2	56.2	58.2	46.5	58.4		N	(Fine—nearly cloudy—light wind. Evening, Fine and clear.)	
T 26	30.302	30.296	57.0	30.238	30.230	58.9	50	05.2	54.2	56.2	46.4	59.3		NE	(A.M. Fine—nearly cloudy—light wind. P.M. Overcast—light wind. Evening, Cloudy.)	
W 27	30.116	30.110	54.9	30.074	30.066	57.2	49	03.1	51.2	57.6	44.4	60.2		N	Cloudy—light wind the whole of the day. Evening, Overcast. (A.M. Cloudy—light brisk wind. P.M. Fine—lt. clouds. Evening, Cloudy.)	
T 28	30.076	30.072	55.3	30.040	30.034	58.5	50	04.2	53.4	59.3	44.4	60.2		N	Fine—nearly cloudy—light wind. Evening, Cloudy.	
● F 29	30.064	30.058	55.8	30.008	30.004	56.8	50	03.9	54.9	58.7	44.4	60.2		NE	Fine—nearly cloudy—light wind. Evening, Cloudy.	
S 30	29.972	29.968	55.8	29.946	29.942	57.9	51	02.9	57.3	61.7	48.0	59.6		NE	(A.M. Fine—nearly cloudy—light wind. P.M. Fine—lt. clouds. Evening, Cloudy.)	
MEAN.	29.909	29.902	59.6	29.892	29.887	60.7	53.7	04.5	57.6	61.6	51.7	63.2	.895	Sum.	Mean Barometer corrected .....	{ 9 A.M. 3 P.M. F. 29.830 .. 29.810 C. 29.822 .. 29.804

## NIGHT FANCIES.

Come away—come away!  
Through the woods to wander free,  
Such a night as this will be,  
Blooms but once a May!

Upon the lonely valley,  
O, sweet the moonshine falls;  
While from grey rock, to hollow glen,  
The clear night-echo calls:

And from yon leafy lair,  
The still and scented air,  
Doth low, tinkling music bear,  
Of water madrigals.

Come away—come away!—  
Such things are not heard by day!

Hark! how the small winds, murmuring,  
The aspen-tops arouse!

The sly stars hear the wooing sound,  
And smile upon their vows;

And, peering through the trees,  
The faint flower-odours seize,

To grace the bridal of the breeze,  
With the young, trembling boughs.

Come away—come away!—  
Such things are not done by day!

## THE ROYAL SOCIETY AND QUEEN ANNE.

The following is a copy of an address intended to have been presented by the Royal Society to Queen Anne in 1713, on the peace of Utrecht. The original is in the handwriting of the famous Dr. Bentley, Master of Trinity and F.R.S., and was lately discovered among the Southwell MSS. Our young Queen, having heard of the circumstances, has naturally anxious to possess so interesting an historical document, and has ordered it to be deposited in the library of Windsor Castle.

"May it please yr Majesty,  
We, your Majesty's most loyall and most duti-

full Subjects, the President, Councill, and Fellows of that Socy wh one of your predecessors founded with the title of Royal, besides our share in the Publick Joy, for the Blessing of your Royall Presence, and the happy conclusion of that Peace which your Majesty alone, under God and by an Influence invisible like his, has given to Europe; doe with all humility crave leave to testify our particular concern as Persons that have directed some part of our labours to the advancement of Nationall Knowledge.

"Peace, and Navigation, and Commerce, are as necessary to the growth of our Literature as to the increase of our Nationall Wealth. Those Foreigners of several Countries, who have enrolled themselves of our number, who, tho' they want the felicity of being yr Majesty's Subjects, have the glory of obeying you as the Head and Sovereigne of our Society, were in the course of a long Warr like Members cut off from the Body. But now they see themselves restored to us by a free Intercourse of Learning, and joyw with us in a joyful gratitude to the Author of that Happiness.

"Our very name and our first Institution doe direct and encourage us to look up to yr Majestic as our Patron and Protector. But the contemplation of your Royall Virtues gives us gracious assurance and secures us of your favor. For all Princes of an elevated Mind have ever espoused the Patronage of Sciences and Arts, and have always found that themselves acquired the truest honor by conferring it upon learning.

"When the wisest of Kings succeeded his Warlike Father in the quiet possession of a throne—the genius of Philosophy, fostered by an active Peace, immediately lift up its head and flourished in his Palaces; that monarch himself not disdaining to be an author—to write of Animals and Plants and the other Parts of Natural History. Nor can it be supposed that He alone, was engaged in the labors of that noble employment; but appointed doubtless

a Select Company—a Royal Society—that should prepare and try experiments, and communicate their observations to be recorded in letters of gold by that Royal Secretary of Nature.

"May the Great God who has united in your Majesty's Person Fortitude and Wisdom, the divided characters of these two Princes, comprise the glories of both their Reigns within the period of yours. May the past part of your wonderful life suffice for Victory and Laurels; and may the longer Series of your future years employ the cares of your Royal Breas with more peaceful entertainments—the encouragement of good Learning—the improvement of Arts and Manufactures—the increase of Trade—the erection of Useful Buildings—the maintenance of morality and religion—the Discovery of Unknown Countries—the propagation of the Christian Faith—and all the other blessings of human life."

## OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

The trumpet sounded in last week's *Athenæum*, has roused the publishers, and notices of works in preparation come thick upon us. Messrs. Longman, it appears, will publish during the season, Athens and Sparta, their Private Manners, and Public Institutions, by Mr. St. John—Essays on Natural History, by C. Waterton, of Walton Hall—A Life of Edward, First Earl of Clarendon, by T. H. Lister—A History of Prices, with Reference to the Causes of their Principal Variations from 1792, by T. Tookie—A History of English Literature, by the elder D'Israeli—Rural Life in England, by W. Howitt—a new novel, by Mrs. Bray, and other less important works. Mr. Murray promises the Life of Admiral the Earl Howe, by Sir John Barrow—Memoirs of the Life of William Wilberforce, by his Sons—The Remains of the Late Lord Viscount Royston, with a Memoir by the Rev. H. Pepys—The Silurian System of Rocks, by R. I. Murchison—An Account of the

Private by J. Tour, a new of The The In address we le make respect service a body mingling matter surely ditions season of H.M. Flizor the Ea motio his Co of Gen Albans Marne Muskaian D America by a la Author vendish Horace The much taneous pronounced Sweden. interest. Shakespeare sources, graver: he was ining last Saint Sone the mig a firm While her han over pleasure ing and certainty. We hea Schneid Bach (in a prelud the sam that we unhesita stance. I as her fir one of the and we a and indu of the we such nob It is when or lected in and cult instrument away. To contemp of the fo of the G Romish which ha oratio, proved a of all the Lady, in

**Private Life, Manners, &c., of the Ancient Egyptians,** by J. G. Wilkinson—**A Continuation of the Home Tour,** by Sir George Head. Mr. Moxon announces a new and illustrated edition of the Poetical Works of Thomas Campbell, uniform with Rogers's poems—The Rev. Egerton Brydges, a new and uniform edition of his late father's works—and from a letter addressed by Mr. O'Connell to the people of Athlone, we learn, that his son John has “gone to France to make researches in the War Office, for documents respecting ‘The Irish Brigade’ in the French service, in an endeavour to rescue from oblivion a body of brave and faithful men, whose history mingled the chivalry of romance, with the plain matter-of-fact details of military life.” Here surely are golden promises;—yet Mr. Colburn's admissions alone would be temptation enough for a season. Among them are the *Eleven Years' Voyages of H.M.S. Adventure and Beagle*, by Capt. King and Fitzroy.—**The Life and Correspondence of Admiral the Earl St. Vincent,** by Capt. Brenton, R.N.—**Memoirs of the Court of George IV.**—**Portraiture of his Contemporaries,** by Henry L. Bulwer.—**Memoirs of General Holt,** by himself—of the Duchess of St. Albans, by Miss Sheridan—**The Travels of Marshal Marmont into Hungary, &c.**—of Prince Puckler Muskau in Egypt.—**The Rhone and the Carthaginian Deserts,** by Miss Pardoe.—**A Year in South America,** by the Hon. P. C. Scarlett.—**Woman and her Master,** by Lady Morgan.—**The Fanqui in China,** by a late Resident; together with novels, &c. by the Author of ‘Tremaine,’ of ‘The Subaltern,’ of ‘Cavendish,’ of ‘The Désenfuyée,’ ‘The Peeress,’ ‘Theodore Hook,’ Douglas Jerrold, Lady C. Bury, Mrs. Gore, Stephen, Capt. Marryat and Chamier, Horace Smith, &c.

The *Foreign Quarterly Review* does not afford much that is generally interesting among its miscellaneous literary notices. M. Touchard Lafosse announces a history of Charles XIV. (Bernadotte) of Sweden; and M. Mignet a History of the Reformation. In Germany, we read of nothing of greater interest than a magnificently-illustrated edition of Shakespeare. From Italy, we learn, from other sources, the death of Fontana, the celebrated engraver: this took place at Rome on the 18th ult.; he was seventy-four years of age.

We received unusual pleasure, on Thursday evening last, from Miss Stirling's organ performance at Saint Sepulchre's. This very young lady commands the mighty instrument she has chosen with an ease, a firmness, and a power, which are extraordinary. While her touch is as decided as could be wished, her hand glides along as quietly as if it were wandering over the lighter keys of the pianoforte for its own pleasure; the pedal sequences, too, however harassing and difficult, are executed by her with the utmost certainty and without the slightest apparent effort. We heard Miss Stirling play a fugue and prelude by Schneider, three fugues and preludes by Sebastian Bach (including his grand works in E and A minor), a prelude for full organ, and three corales varied, by the same author; it is not twice in our musical year that we are permitted to commend so warmly and unabashedly as we ought to do in the present instance. If Miss Stirling's fancy prove only as creative as her fingers are already executive, she will become one of the most extraordinary organists in Europe; and we are inclined to hope everything from the zeal and industry which she must have given to the study of the works of the grand school to produce, already, such noble results.

It is somewhat melancholy to think, that, just when organ music, so long unfashionable and neglected in England, is reviving as an object of interest and cultivation, our master professor of that fine instrument, Mr. Samuel Wesley, should be called away. This gentleman died on Wednesday,—our contemporaries tell us, in the seventy-second year of his age. He was the nephew, it will be remembered, of the founder of Methodism; and his early pursuit of the Gregorian chants and mass music of the Romish church, prompted by a musical enthusiasm which had displayed itself in the form of an original oratorio, composed before he was eight years of age, proved a cause of alarm to some among his relatives, who feared that he had given himself to the keeping of all the saints belonging to the court of the Scarlet Lady, instead of (as was the case) only one—St.

Cecilia. Briefly, he became an accomplished, solid, and classical musician; and, though retarded by mental and bodily infirmities consequent on a severe accident from pushing his way, uninterrupted, to that popularity which his great talents ought to have ensured him, he made himself, and continued to be throughout his life, famous among the selecter musical circles for his great powers of musical improvisation, and for his compositions, which, better known abroad than in England, will, in all probability, be sought for, and produced and admired as they deserve, now that pretension and rivalry have nothing to fear.

We grieve to hear that poor John Clare, the Northamptonshire poet, is at this moment confined in the lunatic asylum at York, where he was sent about three months since,—and it is much feared that his case is hopeless. Other, and equally melancholy, reports of a man of far higher genius have been current in the daily papers this week, to which we do not more specifically advert, out of delicacy to the individual and his family, and in the confident hope that they are exaggerations. Nor should we have publicly mentioned the situation of John Clare, but that the poor fellow must be friendless, at such a distance from his native home; and in the hope that some one, in the neighbourhood, now informed of his situation, will take care that he does not want for such trifles as would contribute to his comfort, and are allowed by the rules of the establishment.

We must notice the recent death of Lesueur, one of the Parisian contrapuntists. For his vacant professorship, Onslow, Caraffa, and Adam have started as candidates; the first ought to win the race. While in Paris, we may notice that the *début* of Madame Tacchinardi Persiani is shortly to take place at the Italian Opera; and, that at the more superb *Académie*, Madame Stoltz, the new *prima donna*, is wholly successful, her brilliant voice giving great promise for the future. Our own *Opera Buffa*, it is now said, opens on Saturday the 11th of December. The band, as before, will be led by Mori, and conducted by Benedict.

**DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.**  
WILL POSITIVELY BE CLOSED FOR THE WINTER SEASON ON SATURDAY NEXT, the 21st instant.—**NEW EXHIBITION,** representing the Interior of the **BASILICA OF ST. PAUL NEAR ROME, BEFORE AND AFTER ITS DESTRUCTION BY FIRE;** and the **VILLAGE OF ALAGNA, IN Piedmont, DESTROYED BY AN AVALANCHE.** Both Pictures are painted by Le Chevalier Bouton. Open Daily from Ten till Five.

#### MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

##### DRURY LANE.

This Evening, GUSTAVUS THE THIRD; with THE CHILD OF THE WRECK; and MASANIELLO. On Monday, THE PIZZARO; with THE CHILD OF THE WRECK; and BLACK-HEADED SUNDAY. Tuesday, SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER; with THE CHILD OF THE WRECK; and THE MAID OF CASHMERE. Wednesday, AS YOU LIKE IT.

##### COVENT GARDEN.

This Evening, THE LORD OF THE MANOR, (Baskley, Mr. H. Phillips); with KATHERINE and PETRUCHIO; and other Entertainments. On Monday, MASANIELLO. Tuesday, THE NOVICE; after which ARTAXERXES; and other Entertainments. Wednesday, THE BRIDAL; and FRA DIAVOLLO. Thursday, THE PROVOKED HUSBAND; after which a New Melo-dramatic Romance.

**DRURY LANE.**—This house opened on Saturday last with ‘The Merry Wives of Windsor’ and a new melodrama by Mr. Planché. It is entitled ‘The Child of the Wreck,’ and its principal feature is a dumb part for Madame Celeste. Ample scope was given for the display of the peculiar powers of this lady; and her speechless exertions, with some unspeakably good acting by Mrs. C. Jones and Mr. McIan, joined to the excellent tact which Mr. Planché has shown in the conduct of the piece, secured for it as much applause as an entertainment of this description can deserve.

**COVENT GARDEN.**—A new play, in three acts, called ‘The Novice,’ was produced on Wednesday. It is not necessary to devote much space to describing a piece which is not likely, in our opinion, long to occupy the public attention. It is a heavy translation from the French; and though there is a story about it, which, in skilful hands, might have been turned into a smartish two-hour affair, it makes but a dull evening—being, as it is, spun out to nearly three hours by some one whom we should take to be a novice at his work. It was

not opposed at any time, and towards the conclusion, where the plot thickens a little and becomes more stirring, there was considerable applause. The actors—particularly Mr. Vining, Mr. Anderson, and Miss Faust, did all they could for it. If it is to stand a chance of being frequently repeated, it must be shortened by at least one hour: and we recommend the omission of the allusions and inquiry which are put into Mr. Vining's mouth in the first act, and of the prayer of the novice, interspersed with side speeches from Mr. Vining, calculated to excite laughter, in the second. We have seen the day when either of these would have proved a death blow on the moment to a piece of ten times the merit of ‘The Novice.’

**HAYMARKET.**—The announcement of a new play from the pen of Mr. Knowles, comes upon us like an invitation to pass an evening with a valued friend. The very sight of it produces, from old recollections, a glow of good-will, and we resolve to go, of course, careless as to the exact quality of the entertainment to be set before us, from a well-grounded confidence that it is sure to be sound and wholesome. Our knowledge of the author determines us not to be churlish, if we should find some parts of it not quite worthy of his genius, and our knowledge of his genius prepares us against being surprised if we should find some parts of it quite worthy of any author. The impression produced by ‘The Love Chase,’ as a whole, is so pleasing, that to find fault with any part of it seems ungrateful,—while the immense applause with which it was received, might well bear us out if we were to assert that it is without one; but we suspect that those best qualified to judge will agree in the opinion that it has faults—and to think so and not to say it, would be to compromise ourselves with them. We shall not follow the plot through all its windings and turnings, but state just enough to excite the curiosity of those who are in the habit of visiting theatres, and then give just enough of extracts to whet the appetites of those who read, but do not go. The name of ‘The Love Chase’ is borne out by a series of scenes and incidents which end in the marriages of three of the couples out of the pack engaged in the hunt—namely, *Constance* (Mrs. Nisbett) and *Wildrake* (Mr. Webster); *Lydia* (Miss Vandenhoff) and *Waller* (Mr. Elton); and *Widow Green* (Mrs. Glover) and *Sir William Fondlove* (Mr. Strickland). The first pair have been brought up together from childhood; and though accustomed to quarrel and to make it up again, have a secret attachment for each other, which neither is aware of until each is made to believe that the other is about to be married. There is, about this pair, some similarity to *Benedick* and *Beatrice*, but it is not stronger than the likeness between the characters of *Katherine* and *Petruchio*, and those of the *Duke* and *Juliana*, in the ‘Honey-moon;’ like these latter, the characters are well conceived, and admirably worked out. The language they speak is always dramatic, sometimes poetical; and they arrive at their ends by such varied means, as give to the whole the freshness of novelty. The second couple exhibits the case of a young girl of humble station, but (as it proves afterwards) of gentle birth, who is dismally sought by libertines, but who, clinging fast to virtue, reclaims him, and wins from him a proposal of marriage. With regard to this couple, we could point out what appear to us manifest faults, but we are not inclined to dwell on them.

The third pair consists of a silly old amorous baronet, who fancies himself no older at sixty than he was at forty, and a smiling elderly widow on the look-out for preferment. The baronet wishes to marry the widow, who is hunting younger game, but who is glad to have him at last, to save herself from the general laugh consequent upon the ridiculous situation into which her vanity has brought her. There are scenes connected with these characters which we should have feared before-hand were almost too broad even for farce, but clever writing and good acting carried them safely through.

**Trueworth,** a friend of *Sir William Fondlove*, proposes to him that he will affect a passion for his daughter *Constance*, in order to arouse *Wildrake* from his seeming apathy:—

**Trueworth.**—Your guess and my conceit are not a mile apart. Unlike to other common flowers, The flower of love shows various in the bud,



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